

Beating the Devil with tea and sympathy

Methodists celebrate with sausage rolls and butterfly buns after 60 years of fighting the good fight on one of Leeds's biggest, most problem-beset council estates



Crumbs of comfort... 60th anniversary celebrations at Gipton PHOTOGRAPH: JOAN RUSSELL

Monday sketch



Martin Wainwright

THE Methodist Tea has a famous place in the moulding of British history, a tribute to the power of egg sandwiches and vivid hymns — shipwrecks and lost sheep a speciality — to add to the world's sum of good. Undeterred by the apathy or sneers of others, John Wesley's "people called Methodists" have given the Devil a fearful drubbing with the teapot, worldly byproducts include both the Labour Party (with a little help from Marx) and the admirable sides of Lady Thatcher's character — conviction, persistence and warmth to her personal staff. For the 60th year running, the chapel anniversary turn was being away this weekend at Gipton Methodist church, a sort of Fort Apache

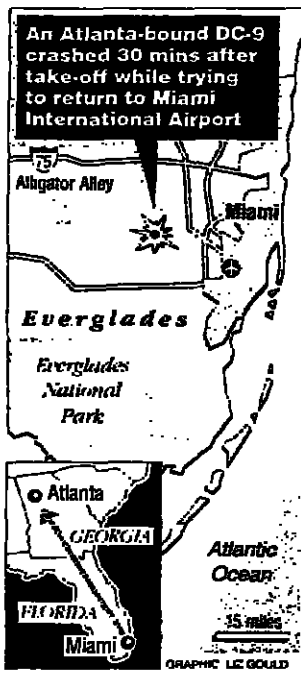
with "Welcome" boards in the heart of one of Leeds' biggest and most problem-beset council estates. Headlines a couple of months ago suggested that British Methodism might be running out of Methodists, but the buzz in the small, often-vandalised building showed slender evidence of that. "You always wonder whether people will support you, and they always do," said Mary Hopkinson, senior steward, treasurer and supreme commander of the anniversary tea's washing-up. A good omen fortified her on Friday when the builder who does the chapel's endless repairs, but isn't a churchgoer himself, called with an enormous bunch of flowers to place by the altar. "Of course, he does a lot of work for us and we pay him," says Mrs Hopkinson. "But you couldn't have wanted a better start to the weekend." Her daughter Jean, a police officer and Gipton Methodist member for 40 years, nipped into the kitchen to collect sausage rolls. "It's magic in there," she said, "the warmth of the welcome and the way everyone's mixing in." A welcome for anyone, in a world with a lot of exclusions, was the aim of Gipton Methodists in 1936, when the chapel

was the first completed public building on the estate. Slum-cleared families, rocked by the vastness of the "garden village" open spaces (one roundabout is big enough to house a school and its playing fields), were eager for somewhere cosy and warm. Most were Catholics, but Wesley's ping-pong and team games were just the same as the Pope's, who hadn't yet got round to building his Gipton church. The estate's builder had gone bankrupt and the roads' tarmac was still to be laid. "A lot of the kids brought in their own weight in mud," recalls a veteran between sips of tea. "I gritted my teeth and remembered George Herbert's hymn, 'Who sweeps a room as for Thy sake...' Things were less muddy (but equally bleak for communal facilities) when six-year-old Anne Nixon moved on to Gipton estate after the war. Flaming the knife to cut the anniversary cake, she looks back at the turning point in a number of initially unfavourable lives. "My friend June across the road said: 'Why don't you come to our Sunday school, it's great. So I rounded along and it was...' she says. Married and moved away, Anne and 10 other friends from the Girls' Brigade (Leeds 3rd Company)

still meet for a meal out every couple of months. "The GB changed our lives. We were from very poor families, and in this building we met people who gave and gave and gave." One of them was Clifford Howden, a local JP "who radiated kindness" according to Mary Hopkinson. Unknown to anyone else, he paid for Anne and others to go on GB camp in Ilkley, a hop from Leeds but as exotic as the South Sea islands for the children. Another was Rev John Jackson, who doubled as chaplain to Leeds United. Anne says: "I still see his widow Lilian regularly at Elland Road. She has a seat for life just near ours in the West Stand." United's football-in-the-community officer, former player Ces Poid, is coincidentally an active churchman; and like him, Gipton's Methodists are part of the tradition of Christians getting stuck into the secular world. Steward Dorothy Keighley, demolishing a butterfly bun, is one of the Women's Bright Hour members who help at the nearby Meeting Point café. The chapel has given room to health visitors and backed the estate's many self-help schemes, notably the Gipsell project for getting homeless young people into "halfway-house" sheltered flats.

Illusions that you have to be Christian to do good are unshared, however, by memories of the man responsible for Gipton, the Rev Charles Jenkinson, chairman of housing in 1930s Leeds. His religious zeal for clearing slums (he was pictured in the Evening Post as an angel driving out rats and cockroaches) was less well-suited to planning the city's New Jerusalem. "He was a hero," says one of the old lady Lanars, who helped move the chapel to Gipton from its former site among the slums in Lady Lane. "But one with flaws." The Methodists have abandoned the competitive edge which was born by their legendary schemes. "That probably is the case," says Rev Keith Hunt, who looks after Gipton and its sister church at Halton. "But it is much better to work together, as we do now. Not only within Methodist but with other churches." One table at the tea was filled with chatty local Anglicans. Rev Hunt was trained by the Pentecostals, has a joint Methodist/United Reform congregation at Halton and, to top up his part-timer's stipend, runs a wholly educational gardening business, sowing seeds as well as the Word.

Miami air crash raises safety worries



Rescue teams assemble on the L67 Canal Levee, west of Miami International airport, near the alligator-infested crash site PHOTOGRAPH: GARY ROTHSTEIN

DUBTS were raised over the safety of America's booming low-fare airlines yesterday after a DC-9 plunged "like a bullet" into the swampy Florida Everglades at the weekend, killing all 109 passengers and crew. The aircraft, which was flying from Miami to Atlanta, was operated by ValuJet, a budget carrier which had been under intense scrutiny by the Federal Aviation Administration following a string of incidents. Yesterday it emerged that the 27-year-old jet had been forced to return to airports seven times in the last two years because of minor safety problems, though it passed an FAA inspection last week. The FAA had recently expressed concern over "a significant decrease" in the experience level of ValuJet's low-paid pilots, after an investigation into several runway accidents, including a fire last June that injured seven people and destroyed a DC-9. Yesterday, ValuJet's founder and president, Lewis Jordan, conceded that he paid his pilots half the basic salary of other airlines, but insisted: "I don't think you increase the level of safety by the amount you pay." Flight 333 disappeared from radar screens 11 minutes after the pilot had reported smoke in the cockpit and requested permission to return to Miami.



Rescue teams assemble on the L67 Canal Levee, west of Miami International airport, near the alligator-infested crash site PHOTOGRAPH: GARY ROTHSTEIN

Video showing disasters in slow-motion is voyeuristic, says aviation pressure group

AIR CRASHES repeatedly in slow motion goes on sale today, amid criticism from an organisation campaigning for aviation safety. Air Disasters, a 48-minute tape, includes footage of the 1989 Kegworth crash in which 47 people died, and an accident during a French air show in 1988 when an Airbus A-320 ploughed into a forest, killing three passengers. Other sequences in the film, which costs \$13.99, show military aircraft plunging into spectators at air displays. Some crashes are shown several times in slow motion. The film makers were

also responsible for the Police Stop! videos, featuring car chases and dangerous motorway driving, which attracted the censure of police and MPs. The air film was condemned as "voyeuristic" by William Beckett, of the pressure group Seisafe, formed after the 1985 Manchester air crash which claimed his daughter's life. "If a video is made to be purely emotive, then one has to challenge the reason behind it," he said. However, James Hunt, of the film's makers, Fifth Estate Video, said the film shows how safety standards varied around the world, and how holiday-makers could be travelling on aircraft leased from an "unsafe" area.

and now serves 31 cities with a fleet of 51 aircraft. In January, three ValuJet aircraft were involved in airport incidents, including two in which the jets skidded off icy runways. The FBI mounted a massive safety inquiry but reportedly discovered no significant problems. Nevertheless, the airline agreed to scale back its expansion plans and to attempt to recruit more experienced pilots and technical staff. Investigators attempting to recover the remains of the aircraft and its occupants face a daunting task. The swamps are infested with alligators and snakes and can only be reached by boat or helicopter. A layer of highly flammable fuel also covers the site.

By the time rescuers reached the remote crash scene, the alligator-infested swamp appeared to have swallowed up most of the aircraft. Searchers found only fragments of debris and a few personal effects. Rescue officials formally abandoned the search for survivors yesterday. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board will attempt to recover the bodies and establish the crash cause. It comes as a bitter blow to America's cut-price airlines, which have enjoyed rampant growth by paring their costs to the bone and operating older second-hand jets. Atlanta-based ValuJet has burgeoned since opening in October 1993 with two jets,

Dole staff fear for jobs and safety

Sourmas Milnes
Labour Editor

THE Government's Job Seeker's Allowance has triggered a collapse of morale among JobCentre and dole office staff, most of whom fear it will put their own jobs and physical safety at work under threat, according to a leaked official survey. The poll of 44,000 Employment Service staff, which has been passed to the Guardian, found that two-thirds expect the full introduction of the allowance in October to endanger their personal safety and 74 per cent believe it will put their job at risk. The allowance, which replaces unemployment benefit and income support, has already cut contributory dole from 12 to six months and is likely to cut payments for up to 250,000. It will also concentrate all benefit payments in what are often open-plan JobCentres, leading to fears of increased attacks on staff. But the crisis in internal confidence goes deeper. The majority of employees believe the service is increasingly inefficient, under-staffed, badly-paid and poorly-motivated because of growing stress on the job.

Michael Meacher, shadow employment secretary, who will disclose the results of the survey at the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union's Bournemouth conference today, said last night: "How can Employment Service staff hope to provide support to people looking for work, when they clearly feel so insecure about their own positions?" Mr Meacher and Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, are understood to be determined to scrap the allowance. Barry Reansbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, which represents 20,000 Employment Service staff, said his union was up against a "hard-nosed management" which appeared oblivious to the likelihood of a resumption of last year's industrial action over pay. An Education and Employment Department spokeswoman said last night: "We recognise that there have been many changes in the Employment Service recently and it is understandable that staff may feel insecure." Risk assessment exercises were being carried out at all JobCentres to establish if new security measures were needed.

Memories of sin and swing from the ole home town

Review

Derek Malcolm

Kansas City
Cannes film festival

ROBERT Altman won the coveted Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1970 with *M*A*S*H*. It was his most successful film at the box office. Now over 70, he is unlikely to make it a double with *Kansas City*. Nor is this portrait of his home town in the 1930s — the headquarters of jazz, crime and political corruption — likely to figure as one of the year's most popular movies.

It occupies territory somewhere between the extraordinary Short Cuts and the much less satisfactory *Prêt à Porter*, though it does have one amazing feature — a jazz corner that seems actually to be right at the centre of its story and not merely an off-screen commentary upon it. Jennifer Jason Leigh plays an abducted white gangster's girl who thinks she can get him back from Harry Belafonte's black Mr Big by kidnapping the wife (Miranda Richardson) of one of Roosevelt's political aides (Michael Murphy). She is a movie fan who wants to be like Jean Harlow. The politician's wife is a spaced-out slave to laudanum.

They make an odd couple who in the end combine against a world that's just too much for them. There's a problem here, and it lies in the performance of Leigh as Blondie. She has neither the lightness of touch nor the charm of Harlow, and the performance seems too much like a series of ever more grating tricks. Against this tirade of mannerisms, Richardson's subtlety tends to be snuffed out. The surprise is Belafonte who plays Seldom Seen, an approximation of a real-life black mobster who survived everything to die at 88. Some of his monologues are superb and the fact that he often made them up himself makes the

portrait the more remarkable. Otherwise, the film has a brilliant sense of period, a serviceable screenplay, but a structure that, in the end, gets nowhere very much that we haven't been before. It is almost Altman's *Casino*. The sequences at Seldom Seen's Hey-Hey club — which include the enactment of a legendary all-night session between Coleman Hawkins and Lester Young, watched by the 14-year-old Charlie Parker — will live in the memory, perhaps because they live in Altman's memory too. As a boy he haunted the clubs, watching from the balcony where the youngsters like Parker were relegated. The rest is another ironic

Altman discourse on the basic corruption of America — a theme which goes back to *McCabe and Mrs Miller* and is touched upon, in this same period, by *Thieves Like Us*. He

says *Kansas City* was constructed like a piece of jazz but admits it is a hard thing to do. If he has not really succeeded, at least he hasn't betrayed the music.



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On the Easterhouse estate, residents salvage from derelict houses in an effort to improve their own council homes. Right, Hubert Kounde in La Haine, Cannes-do film about a can't do neighbourhood

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

Modern tale of two cities spans hatred and hope

Erlend Clouston on expectations that have been aroused by President Chirac's impending visit to a deprived part of Glasgow



Erlend Clouston in the Scottish film Small Faces

AS the Auld Alliance ever been stronger? This week a Scot represents France in the Eurovision Song Contest two days before that country's president makes a fact-finding visit to one of Scotland's most notorious housing estates. "It's a major boost for us," said Martin Timoney, referring not to Karen Matheson of the group Capercaille, but to

Jacques Chirac's historic pilgrimage to Easterhouse on the outskirts of Glasgow. Most communities would have reservations about being selected as a showcase for urban deprivation, but for Easterhouse the president's mission will be an opportunity to show that plus ça change plus ce n'est pas la même chose. The estate, thrown up in the 1960s on the east side of Glasgow, with few facilities and less taste, has for years been a byword for outer city squalor, and violence apparently fermented in with the public sector bricks. Thirty years ago, the singer Frankie Vaughan organised a highly publicised knives amnesty for the local razor-fighters. This month, Strathclyde police set up a special unit, featuring four mounted policemen, to tackle the nightly battles between gangs with mysterious, Gallic-sounding names like Torrantol and Bartol.

Small Faces, the film about Glasgow street fighters, was to have been called Easterhouse until outraged community leaders intervened. In his base at Bishoploch adult education centre, of which he is the coordinator, Mr Timoney is bargaining that President Chirac's tour will have roughly the same effect on Easterhouse's disastrous image as Joan of Arc had on the French army. "Maybe this visit will get rid of all that Frankie Vaughan crap," he said. "President Chirac has chosen to come here to learn about economic regeneration, so that will prove to the world that it's now happening here." Mr Timoney, aged 26, insists there has been an enormous change in the culture of a 40,000-strong community struggling with unemployment levels that exceed 30 per cent in some parts. At one level, organisations with complex names like the Greater Easterhouse Community Empowerment and Strategy Project now see that there is significant residents' input into the various regeneration packages coordinated by the Greater Easterhouse Initiative. At another, Easterhouse people have drastically

revised their attitude to self-improvement. "When I was a lad, peer pressure made you the laughing stock if you wanted to be educated. Now people are not embarrassed to grasp their opportunities," Mr Timoney said. Mr Chirac's Thursday promenade will begin at Bishoploch Hall, where 2,000 people a week now attend education and training classes, and finish at St Leonard's Secondary School, where the Prince's Trust is paying for tutors to conduct after-hours lessons. At the Easterhouse police station yesterday, a constable who declined to be named confirmed that President Chirac's bodyguards will have less to fear than they might have had in Frankie Vaughan's day. "Serious assaults are heavily down," he said, though he refused to say to what. Next door at the Easterhouse swimming pool, also on the presidential itinerary, the manager lavished praise on the behaviour of his 2,000 weekly customers. "They get a lot more trouble at the sports centre round the corner, but they've got a security man in now, so they're all right."

The constable acknowledged that the Torrantol and the Bartol were less vicious than their predecessors, but remained puzzled at their motivation. "Just about everybody I've arrested for gang fighting is not on drugs or alcohol," he said, suggesting that the under-16s needed stiffer punishment before Easterhouse was really brought into line. "If I'd been arrested, you'd have had to pick me off the ground. I'd have been so terrified. Now all they ask is what can we do to them?" For Mr Timoney and others, this is missing the point. Easterhouse's packs of the junior hoodlums are a consequence of the area's decline, not the cause of it. He will outline to the French president's entourage his vision of a prosperous 21st century Easterhouse based on the adjacent motorway network, untamed green field sites, and the untapped energies of its residents. "There's a wealth of talent here," he said, indicating an undervalued and artistically impressive 40 yard mosaic. "And give somebody from here a job, they'll be so grateful that they will be the most dedicated workers you could ever have."

Ghetto found fame but there's no change, says Paul Webster



Vincent, played by Vincent Cassel, in La Haine

A YEAR after a film called La Haine (Hate) swept through the outer Parisian suburb of Chante-loup like a cleansing fire, boredom and depression has again settled over the high-rise estate called La Noe, the film's central location. Yesterday, the junior football club, all blacks and Arabs, made its way home

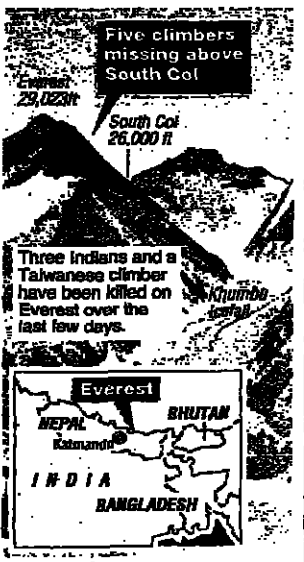
past the abandoned supermarket which figured in the internationally-successful film, winning the Palme d'Or at Cannes before being chosen as the French feature of the year. "I wasn't allowed to take part in the film," said Rafiq, aged 12. "But if you want to see what it's really like to see the police chasing us through the cellars, we can fix it easily." Chante-loup's two months of glory, during location work around the fictional revenge for the murder of a young black by a policeman, achieved a much higher international profile than can be expected of the Prince of Wales's and Jacques Chirac's planned Glasgow inner-city walk-about this week. But it did not change much. At the Penalty Bar, the regulars were resentful of being drawn into discussion over whether the town of 10,000 people had benefited from the film. "We get lots of tourists and sociologists dropping in as if this was a zoo," the barman said. "It hasn't brought us work and investment, just curiosity about how the poor and the jobless get by." Abdel Elhani, a young

electrician from the Noe estate, built for immigrant car workers in the booming 1960s and now housing 7,000 people, did not think Mr Chirac would learn much from visiting a run down mainly-white inner city in Scotland. Nearly all the problems in France were in neglected immigrant ghettos with high unemployment, he said. "The root cause of drug taking, theft, teenage gangs and attacks from police comes from boredom," he added. "You're here, you've got nothing to do and you don't really live." "Some of these high rise blocks contain family upon family of unemployed who've learnt that you've got to get together on a community basis and help yourselves, because it's no good waiting for a film crew or a visiting VIP to get it for you," he said. A group of youths with a ghetto-blasters offered to play the rap cassette that added to La Haine's extraordinary success. But when they spoke of events in the film, they made no difference between fiction and fact. "It's every day life here, except it happened in front of the cameras," said one.

Five stranded on Everest could bring death toll to 9

Vivek Chaudhary and Ed Douglas

TWO OF the world's leading climbers and three others who paid large sums to be led up Mount Everest remained stranded on the mountain yesterday as bad weather hampered attempts to rescue members of the expedition. As hopes faded for their survival, it could bring the total number of climbers killed on Everest over the past few days to nine. On Thursday, Taiwanese climber was killed, and reports emerged that three Indian climbers who had reached the summit were killed coming down the north side of the mountain. New Zealander Rob Hall, who has climbed Mount Everest five times, was reported to be stranded close to the summit with severe frost bite in his hands and feet. Also missing is the American climber Scott Fischer, who was leading a separate team. He is reported to be in a coma, hanging from ropes at the top camp at South Col, which is 26,000 feet up. Mr Hall was heading a group of four climbers who had paid up to \$45,000 each to be led up the mountain. They



Five climbers missing above South Col. Three Indians and a Taiwanese climber have been killed on Everest over the last few days.

Speaking from the Everest base camp, Liz Cohen, a member of an American expedition, said: "Right now we just don't know who's still up there. They are conducting search and rescue efforts on the South Col." According to reports, Mr Fischer was found by rescue teams over the weekend, unconscious and barely breathing. Rescuers wrapped him up and left him with oxygen, concentrating their limited strengths on rescuing Makalu Gao, leader of the stranded Taiwanese expedition. Latest reports suggest that Mr Hall is still alive and was in radio contact with members of his climbing team over the weekend. They tried to keep him awake until the weather improved, but it is considered doubtful that he will be able to survive the cold and altitude. The plight of the missing climbers has highlighted the growing commercial climbing expeditions. Many in the climbing world are concerned that inexperienced climbers are buying their way up dangerous mountains. This month is the peak season for climbing Everest, whose summit has been reached by 750 people since 1953. There have been 130 deaths.

Volkswagen faces £125m repayment of subsidies

Dennis Staunton in Berlin

EUROPEAN Union officials are reported to be investigating whether Volkswagen has broken the conditions of an agreement under which Brussels allowed the Bonn government to give more than £125 million in subsidies to the car company. According to today's issue of Der Spiegel, the weekly magazine, Volkswagen could be forced to repay the money. The magazine says the EU's competition commissioner, Karel van Miert, is urging his commission colleagues to demand that the company forfeit 300 million marks given over the understanding that Volkswagen would invest a much larger sum in factories in the eastern state of Saxony. The magazine alleges that Mr Van Miert has been pressing for more stringent scrutiny of German companies since it is its eastern factories that a German shipbuilder, Bremer Vulkan, failed to honour an agreement that a similar EU-approved German subsidy of several million pounds would be used for the construction of a shipyard in the east of the country. Instead, Bremer Vulkan used the money to shore up its debt-ridden operation in western Germany. In the case of Volkswagen, the EU gave clearance for up to £400 million in Bonn subsidies to the company after German reunification. The condition was that the car maker should invest almost £2 billion in its eastern factories by the end of 1994. By the end of 1995, Der Spiegel says, only £1 billion had found its way to Saxony, effectively breaking the terms on which the EU allowed the government subsidy. Der Spiegel says Volkswagen's chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, went to Brussels a week ago to plead with the commission for patience, promising that the company would complete its investment programme in the east by the year 2000. There was no-one available for comment at the company's headquarters in Wolfsburg yesterday.

Fertility help for HIV woman sparks row

continued from page 1 of time, without necessarily developing full-blown Aids. "But above all... [they] were highly responsible and caring people, who loved each other, who had thought the chance of a baby." Prof Winston reveals that although he had approval from the chairman of the hospital's ethics committee, he did not have the full support of other members of the IVF team. "I was astonished and horrified at their reaction," he says. However, convinced that the couple deserved and required treatment, he proceeded. "I learnt that there were certain medical decisions where a relatively automatic decision was needed."

Stephanie Elsy, director of Positively Women, a support and information service for HIV positive women, yesterday welcomed Prof Winston's decision. She said that medical advances now meant there was a good chance a baby born in such circumstances would not catch the virus and that the mother could live for many years. She supported women trying to get pregnant once they had made informed decisions. However, Richard Nicholson, editor of the Bulletin of Medical Ethics, said the decision was not in the best interests of the child. It was an "unwise and I would almost say self-indulgent use of modern technology". Dr Nicholson added: "We

have gone an awfully long way down the road in the health service in indulging any desire that patients express, rather than trying to make our decisions on the basis of clinical need. "I would suggest that it would be fairly easy to argue that a case like this one has gone too far towards indulgence of the patient." A spokeswoman for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority declined to comment on the case and said such decisions were up to individual clinicians. The British Medical Association yesterday said it could not support Prof Winston's treatment of the woman and that it viewed the case with concern because of the danger of the child being orphaned.

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Appeal to unions, page 7

OJ Simpson in Britain faces trail by media

Owen Bowcott sees acquitted celebrity put off his stroke

AMID celebrity walk-outs and reports of death threats, America's most famous acquitted suspect flew into Britain at the weekend to be confronted with a fresh media row over his murder trial.

With Granada Television picking up all expenses, OJ Simpson was touted around airport lounges, West End hotels and a Home Counties golf course in advance of his appearance on a live chat show tonight.

At Heathrow on Saturday, the 48-year-old former American football star — who was found not guilty last year of stabbing to death his estranged wife Nicole, aged 35, and her friend Ron Goldman, 25 — was mobbed by reporters and cameras crews.

One woman grabbed him by the collar and shouted: "Murderer! Is the murderer in Britain, OJ?" Mr Simpson ignored the accusation, but a Granada spokesman claimed that she had been set up to generate controversy.

"There were two women who had been planted by a US network TV show," he said. "We are not revealing which one. Nor is it true that we have received death threats against Mr Simpson."

The Hollywood actress Bo Derek cancelled her appearance on Tonight with Richard and Judy to avoid appearing alongside OJ. The singer Neil Diamond is expected to be the other guest.

Escorted by a bodyguard and Max Clifford, his publicity agent, Mr Simpson played golf yesterday morning at Selsdon Park club in Surrey.

Asked why his blood was at the scene of the murder and

why he did not take the witness stand during the trial, he replied through gritted teeth: "It's a lovely day."

Returning to his game, he said: "I don't have very good form at the moment, and you guys being here doesn't help."

Among Mr Simpson's other reported engagements are supper with the film director Michael Winner and an appearance at the Oxford Union tomorrow evening.

Claims that went house-hunting in the Surrey stockbroker belt on Saturday were dismissed as an estate agent's fantasy.

Granada said it would be paying Mr Simpson an appearance fee of only £1. The expenses bill amounted to around £18,000.

Commentary, page 5
Friend or Foe? Media, G2, page 8

Following Australia's decision to reform its firearms legislation within a fortnight of the Tasmanian massacre, Mr Major promised at the weekend to "move speedily" to change the gun laws in the autumn if it is recommended by the Dunblane inquiry.

He and Mr Howard have failed to put their proposals for change to Lord Cullen, insisting it would prejudice the outcome of the inquiry.

Leader comment, page 8

Japan, both low crime countries. In Japan it was virtually impossible for civilians to own a gun while the Swiss had some of the most liberal gun laws in the world. Japan's gun-related murder rate is one-eighth that of Britain's, while Switzerland's is six times the British rate.

The package would see the most wide-ranging gun controls introduced into Britain. Chief constables last week told MPs there were 180,000 legally held handguns in Britain.

Mr Straw said yesterday: "We are submitting these proposals formally to the Cullen inquiry. We can not think of any good reason why people should own these handguns."

He was struck by the evidence from Switzerland and



Passing shot... OJ in focus on Selsdon Park golf course in Surrey. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LAMARQUE

News in brief

Teachers up stakes in league table war

HEAD teachers' leaders were last night stepping up their campaign to stop the Government publishing "unfair" league tables of primary school results in the tests of 11-year-olds which begin across England and Wales today.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said its annual conference later this month would vote on a plan to stop ministers getting hold of data on children's test performance and teachers' assessments of their attainment.

Teachers fear schools may be given a bad reputation by results which fail to take account of the number of disadvantaged children with special educational needs on their rolls. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, warned that heads and governors had a legal responsibility to provide the results of tests in English, maths and science. "I do not expect them to break the law," she said. — John Carol

Uncle charged with murders

THE uncle of four children killed in an arson attack at their home has been charged with their murders and will appear in court tomorrow.

Fred Heyworth, aged 58, was charged with murdering his two nieces and two nephews and attempting to murder their parents and their 14-year-old daughter Kelly, who survived the blaze.

Terry Good, aged 12, Alison, aged 10, Nicola, aged eight, and six-year-old Patrick died when their home in Southampton, Hants, was set alight in the early hours of last Sunday. Their parents, Beverley and Melvyn Good, and Kelly managed to escape the inferno by jumping out of a first floor window.

Heyworth, of Bitterne, Southampton, the estranged husband of Beverley's sister Janet, was arrested within hours of the blaze at Sholing.

Labour proposes crackdown on guns

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

LABOUR will today publish proposals for a ban on handguns that could remove 200,000 weapons from circulation.

The proposals have been drawn up by the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, and shadow Scottish secretary, George Robertson, following the Dunblane school massacre in March.

The move has wrong-footed the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, and John Major, who have refused to disclose their proposals for legislation until the Cullen inquiry into the death of 16 children and their teacher in Scotland reports in the autumn.

Labour's plan will:

□ Ban ownership of all automatic and semi-automatic handguns.

□ Ban all single shot handguns and rifles which are more than 22 calibre.

□ Raise the minimum age for firearm certificates from 14 to 18.

□ Give the police discretion to refuse firearm applications without having to state a reason, and bar any appeal to the courts against refusal.

Mr Straw said yesterday: "We are submitting these proposals formally to the Cullen inquiry. We can not think of any good reason why people should own these handguns."

He was struck by the evidence from Switzerland and

Japan, both low crime countries. In Japan it was virtually impossible for civilians to own a gun while the Swiss had some of the most liberal gun laws in the world. Japan's gun-related murder rate is one-eighth that of Britain's, while Switzerland's is six times the British rate.

The package would see the most wide-ranging gun controls introduced into Britain. Chief constables last week told MPs there were 180,000 legally held handguns in Britain.

Mr Howard has failed to put their proposals for change to Lord Cullen, insisting it would prejudice the outcome of the inquiry.

Leader comment, page 8

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Leader comment, page 8

Howard renews pledge to close 'Jackal' false identity loophole

Alan Travis

THE Government is to introduce legislation this autumn to close an immigration loophole which ministers identified six years ago.

A leaked letter seen by the Guardian from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to the Treasury shows that the "Day of the Jackal" loophole, which enables fraudsters and other criminals to create false identities through easy access to official copies of birth certificates, is being increasingly exploited.

It was dubbed the Day of the Jackal loophole after a scene in the film in which a hired assassin gets hold of a dead person's birth certificate to assume a fresh identity.

Mr Howard says that in 1994 the UK Passport Agency recorded 583 cases in which new birth certificates which did not belong to the applicants were presented with passport applications. Last year the number of cases discovered reached 738.

The letter says: "The Immigration Service estimate that in 1985 there were 350 to 400 cases of persons seeking leave to enter or remain here involving the issue of birth certificates which did not belong to them." It presses Treasury ministers to back "an uncontroversial bill in the programme for the next session".

Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr, said the Government first pledged to close the loophole in a 1990 white paper.

Mr Rooker himself obtained an official copy of a birth certificate in the name of Peter Lilley — to show how easy it was.

Witnesses to get protection

POLICE in Liverpool are setting up a secret unit to protect witnesses to shootings from reprisals, in an attempt to break the reign of terror by the city's criminal gangs.

Shootings among rival factions have risen sharply since the murder of David Ungi (right) in Toxteth a year ago. But police have struggled to find witnesses prepared to testify. On May 1 — the anniversary of the Ungi murder — 49-year-old Owen Graham was shot dead in a Toxteth betting shop. Despite pleas from detectives no witnesses have come forward.

Details of the witness scheme are being kept secret.



Charred body found

DETECTIVES were yesterday trying to identify the charred remains of a dismembered body found in a forestry clearing. Initial examination suggested the victim had been murdered within the last few days. Two Forestry Commission workers raised the alarm after spotting bones among a pile of burned logs in Wentwood Forest, near Newport, south Wales, on Saturday night.

Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, leading the inquiry, said neither the victim's age nor sex had been discovered.

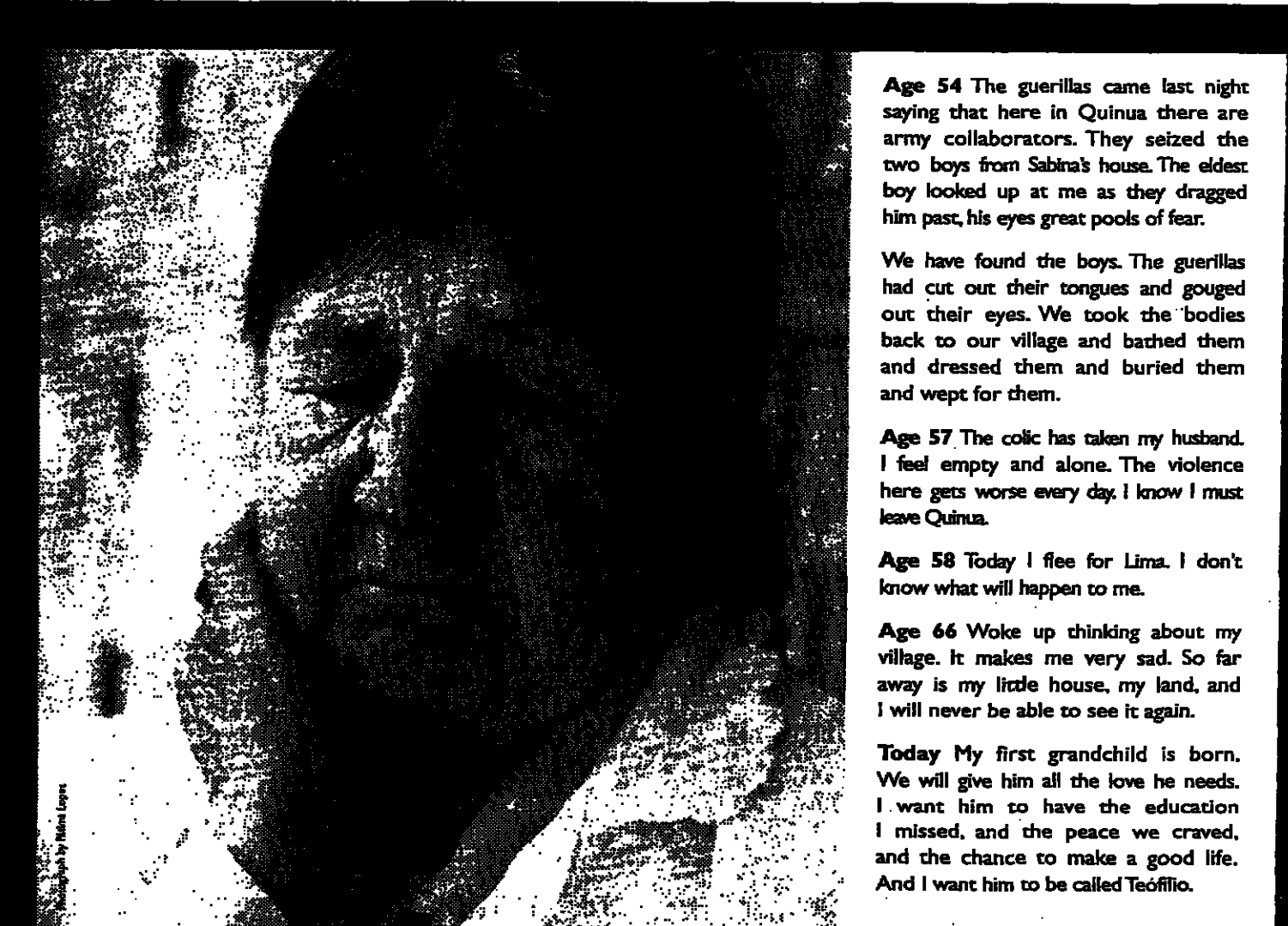
Watchdog for the palace

AN EXECUTIVE director of the Press Complaints Commission is being considered for a leading role in the press office of the Prince of Wales, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. Mark Bolland, aged 30, has high-level contacts in the newspaper world and is thought to have impressed senior palace staff with his understanding of the media's royal coverage.

The move to secure Mr Bolland's services follows a series of changes in the Prince of Wales's press office, including the departure of Allan Percival, his press secretary. Buckingham Palace denies the changes are an attempt to rebuild the prince's media image. — Vivek Chaudhary

Ostrich meat takes off

AFLIGHTLESS bird will get airborne this summer when ostrich meat joins the menu on airline flights, it was revealed yesterday. Ostrich steaks will be introduced to first class passengers on British Airways North American flights from July and could be extended to other routes if popular.



DIARY OF A SURVIVOR

This diary is based on interviews with Agustina Gutiérrez Ramos, a displaced villager from Quinua, Peru. Her story of survival against the odds is typical of so many throughout the Third World.

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World news in brief

Greek veto throws doubt on EU talks

FORTHCOMING membership talks between the European Union and Cyprus could be seriously disrupted today if Greece refuses to lift its veto of financial aid to Turkey at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

There is mounting anger at determination in Athens to block the money and it looks set to cast a shadow over the two-day meeting of the General Affairs Council where accession talks with Cyprus and Malta will top the agenda.

The Greek foreign minister, Theodore Pangalos, has warned that Athens would systematically veto all Brussels' joint decisions if it made association talks with Cyprus contingent on Greece unblocking the aid.

Several EU states have warned Greece it must lift the veto to avoid the negotiations being stalled further but Athens has pledged to block the aid as long as Turkey refuses to "renounce the threat of violence" in the Aegean.

The aid includes structural funds and money associated with a customs agreement between Turkey and the EU. — *Helena Smith, Paris.*

Algeria unveils reforms

PROPOSALS by the Algerian president, Liamine Zeroual, for constitutional reforms to try to end four years of conflict between government and Islamists were published yesterday.

About 50,000 people have died in the power struggle between the two sides. Analysts said Mr Zeroual's proposals — sent on Saturday to more than 100 leading political figures — sought to broaden the power base of the government, while still excluding radical Islamists from power.

Under the proposals, parties would be banned from campaigning under a Muslim banner. Islam is defined in the document as the heritage of the whole society "which must be excluded from the field of political competition and partisan antagonisms".

Other proposals include the creation of a parliament with two legislative chambers (Algeria has had no elected parliament since January 1992), the introduction of the proportional representation system of voting, and the limiting of the president's tenure to one term of five years in office.

Mr Zeroual wants to hold a referendum later this year the proposals. — *Reuter, Paris.*

FDR statue triggers row

AMERICA'S National Organisation on Disability is protesting that a memorial statue of Franklin Roosevelt (right), to be dedicated in Washington next year, will ignore the fact that he was unable to stand unassisted after being stricken by polio.

There was no reminder that the president spent much of his time in wheelchair after falling ill in 1921. On the contrary, he is to be shown standing tall in one of three sculptures planned for the seven-acre site on the banks of the Potomac. — *New York Times.*



Matthew Brzezinski in Kiev

WHEN Nina Ivanova opened her post last month she did a double take. Rises in the cost of the rent and bills for her one-bedroom flat left her with a disposable monthly income of £1.

So at the age of 73 — like many other pensioners hit by Ukraine's economic hardships — she has come out of retirement to make ends meet. The country's oldest are going back to work.

"I've had no choice," she said, as she laid out the neat rows of plastic shopping bags she sells at a bazaar in central Kiev. At a few pence profit on each item, she takes home about £2 after eight hours of standing in the cold. It's not much, but enough for some basic shopping she could not otherwise afford.

Mrs Ivanova, a widow, former book-keeper and wartime survivor of a Nazi labour camp, is no stranger to hardship, but is bitter nonetheless. "I spent 35 years working for the communist state and now the new system has completely abandoned me," she said.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has not helped elderly people here. With their life savings wiped out by hyperinflation and state coffers ravaged by a lasting economic crisis, Ukraine's estimated 15 million pensioners have been left to fend for themselves.

Many retired people are hustling for a living on the streets of Kiev. At the smart Passage shopping district, a babushka has teamed up with her grandson to wash the BMWs and Land Rovers of the new rich. The proud woman had no time to talk, but her 17-year-old grandson, Ihor, welcomed a break from polishing.

"I was a little surprised when she suggested she join me," said Ihor. "It's really glad though, because she's attracting a lot of clients." The gimmick appears to be paying off for the pair, who pocket three million karbovanets, or about £10, for their day's efforts.

A daily take of that magnitude since Ukraine broke from Moscow in 1991. During that period consumer prices have soared 19,000 times, says the study. One consequence is that life expectancy has dropped by six years.

"If there's been one group whose standard of living has suffered here, it's the pensioners," said Boris Najman, a French economist and adviser to the government. "It's a vicious circle. As the official economy shrinks, the government imposes higher employer retirement contributions. This serves only to drive more businesses into the underground economy. So in the end there is less and less money coming in for pensions."

Mr Najman estimates that more than half of the country's pensioners take part in some sort of economic activity to survive. Many sell furniture or family heirlooms. Some beg. Others look and sell pirozki, a local dumpling.

But one group of pensioners least affected by the cuts is collective farmers, who have access to food. Peasant traditions run deep in this agrarian society, and farmers have always worked long after official retirement. Tatiana Demychuk, aged 67, travels 100 miles from her collective farm to Kiev twice a week to sell meat. "I'll never retire," she said. "I wouldn't know how."



Making ends meet... Tatiana Demychuk, aged 67, travels 100 miles to Kiev to sell meat to supplement her pension

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW BRZEZINSKI

Record haul of pirated CDs

HONG KONG customs officers have seized 60,000 pirated compact discs and CD-Roms worth around £250,000 in the largest such seizure ever, the government reported yesterday.

All the items had been smuggled into Hong Kong from China, it added. The United States is threatening trade sanctions against China for what it says are wholesale breaches of copyright protection agreements.

Hong Kong authorities said 20,000 of the pirated CDs were found inside a truck at the Hong Kong-China border checkpoint on Saturday, leading to the arrest of three men. In follow-up investigations, customs officers raided a warehouse yesterday and seized 40,000 more video CDs and CD-Roms, the statement said. Those arrested were described as key members of a smuggling syndicate. — *AP, Hong Kong.*

Shoe firm to clarify past

THE SWISS shoe company Bally, accused of taking over Jewish companies seized by the Nazis during the second world war, will open its archives to historians to clarify its wartime activities, according to the Swiss newspaper, *SonntagsZeitung*.

"Our archives are fundamentally open for professional historians," said Hans Widmer, the chairman of Oerlikon-Buehrle Holding, of which Bally is a division. He said he would also lay open the books of the machine tool maker Buehrle, which was a weapons producer during the Nazi era. — *Reuter, Zurich.*

Holbrooke attacks Europe on Bosnia

San Katz in New York

RICHARD Holbrooke, the American diplomat who brokered the Dayton accord to end the war in the former Yugoslavia, has accused European leaders of failing to enforce the civilian requirements of the agreement and effectively accepting the partitioning of Bosnia.

In an article in *Time* magazine, the former US assistant secretary of state complains of "disturbing signs of backsliding" on the implementation of Dayton pledges on the prosecution of war criminals, the return of refugees and economic reconstruction.

Mr Holbrooke complained that "a messy, ineffective arrangement, insisted on by the Europeans" had made it difficult to achieve the treaty's political goals. His attack reflects revived American irritation with what is perceived as Europe's lack of commitment to the peace process, which was supposed to re-establish a single, unified Bosnia.

In his article, Mr Holbrooke warns that failing to bring together the Serb and Muslim-held areas of the republic under a single government could lead to the "involuntary dismemberment of Bosnia", leaving a tiny Muslim "mini-state" around Sarajevo.

Mr Kohl's policy is aimed at curbing budget deficits and state debt to meet the terms for a single European currency by the end of next year, to improve business competitiveness, and to liberalise the labour market in the hope of bringing down unemployment of almost 4 million.

Christian Zalm, one of the negotiators for the DAG white-collar union, said: "I expect an offer from the employers on Monday. If there's no offer, there's no agreement. And no agreement means strike."

But there seems to be little common ground with the employers' side, led by the interior minister, Manfred Kanther.

In addition to a two-year pay freeze, the government wants to cut sick pay and extend working hours.

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community's representative for Bosnia, will attend the talks to plead for a postponement of the poll — due by May 31, under the Dayton agreement.

The setback came after political parties based in the city's Muslim east bank failed to register by a Friday deadline in protest against voting rules they say penalise non-Croats displaced from Mostar by war.

Marking time in Tuzla, Carl Bildt, the international

Kohl appeals to strident unions

Jan Traynor in Bonn

CONFRONTED by mounting opposition to spending cuts that may herald a summer of discontent in Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl appealed to unions and employers yesterday to shy away from conflict and defend his contentious scheme as the only way to safeguard the country's future.

"Everybody has to show great responsibility for the future," Mr Kohl told the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper. "If we don't have the courage for the necessary changes now, we'll waste the future."

But after a series of warning strikes last week, union leaders vowed at the weekend to step up resistance to the government's plans to impose spending cuts of 70 billion marks (£31 billion) next year.

A cornerstone of the Kohl scheme is a two-year public sector pay freeze to save 20 billion marks. But union leaders representing 3.2 million public sector workers are to meet tonight to discuss a programme of phased industrial action unless pay talks today achieve progress on their 4.5 per cent wages claim.

Nursing, rubbish collection and public transport are expected to form the vanguard in a progressive flexing of industrial muscle aimed at forcing the government to ameliorate the most radical spending cuts announced in Germany in decades.

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North Italy MPs in election stunt

John Hooper in Rome

ELECTED representatives of Italy's federalist Northern League gathered in Mantua yesterday to form a 10-strong 'government'.

Watched by members of the League's newly-formed green-shirted security force, they voted to make Giancarlo Pajliarini, a former minister in the government of Silvio Berlusconi, their "prime minister".

Mr Pajliarini, who was put forward by the leader of the League, Umberto Bossi, was the sole candidate. Yesterday's vote was the latest in a string of publicity stunts orchestrated by Mr Bossi to bring concessions from Rome to secure government. Last weekend he called for a Czechoslovak-style peaceful partition of Italy.

So far, though, the dominant reaction has been one of outraged hostility. On Friday the incoming speaker of the lower house of parliament, Luciano Violante told MPs the state would be entitled to use force to suppress any attempt at secession.

Mr Bossi has insisted he wants a "separation of territories" between the rich north and the poorer south and centre. Nevertheless, his language is ambiguous.

The only role publicly assigned to the new 'government' is to give instructions to the League's deputies and senators in the Rome parliament. Yesterday, however, Mr Bossi hinted at more.

"If, as I believe, it is true that this country is heading for collapse with no way out, this government will represent the hope that in the end, there will be a way out," he said.

Yesterday's vote was taken in a "parliament" set up by Mr Bossi last year. It consists of the League's MPs, its regional councilors and mayors.

The Northern League did much better than expected at last month's general election, but lost its grip on the balance of power. Some have argued that Mr Bossi's current campaign is aimed at giving his party a role in the new parliament.

There are clear signs that the relationship of trust between politicians and civil servants is breaking down. Responsibility is shared. The spate of leaks from Whitehall, cleverly timed to subvert and embarrass the Government, is inexcusable — but hardly surprising.

Derek Lewis

Monday, May 13 1996

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Denying a view to kill

How to put the gun question

WHO NEEDS GUNS? The question about guns and violence posed by Dunblane and Tasmania is not going to go away. Tony Blair may be wholly sincere in proposing, in advance of the Cullen inquiry, a complete ban on handguns. Virginia Bottomley may have backed Dustin Hoffman's attack on film violence from total conviction. But politicians also know an issue worth running with when they see one. Indeed why should public opinion not deserve their support? It may seem perverse that not one but several tragedies (for Oklahoma also forms part of the wider picture) are needed to put the problem high up on the agenda. But a critical mass of anxiety has now been generated which is less likely to be allayed by half-measures.

The decision of senior federal and state officials in Australia to press for tough firearm controls provides an important lesson for Britain. The point of comparison is not the actual detail of the new regulations proposed by Prime Minister John Howard. Australian gun laws have been laxer in many respects than ours. Even though handguns are already illegal, controls have varied from state to state and in Tasmania even machine guns could be bought across the counter. But the decision shows how politicians can seize the moment of public concern to take an initiative from which they would have backed away before. In spite of yesterday's blast of outrage from the Sporting Shooters of Australia, opinion polls show that an overwhelming majority supports a wide-ranging ban. In declaring that Australia will "not go down the American path", and that it is a country with "a culture of peaceful cooperation", Mr Howard has touched a sympathetic nerve.

When swift action is contemplated under popular pressure, its critics are quick to label it as unscientifically based and a knee-jerk reaction. Strictly speaking they may be right — but to what end? Dustin Hoffman quoted no statistics in Cannes on Friday when he denounced gratuitous violence in films and asked "are we really saying that screen violence doesn't have anything to do with these massacres?" With so many variables involved, it would be hard to imagine a statistical test capable of proving the connection (although the "Rambo factor" was evident in, for example, the Hungerford massacre.) Yet Mr Hoffman was denouncing "gratuitous" violence: the adjective is all-important. War and bloodshed have never been absent from literature or the theatre, but whether they are graphically described or not is less the issue than the intention and the effect. Films which are made in order to exploit violence can be identified by the lay viewer without a degree in media studies. Mr Hoffman's professional judgement that "commerce is mixed with violence now in a way I am unaware of in my lifetime" (and similar views expressed by Roger Moore and other stars) should be listened to very carefully.

Mr Blair's initiative was being presented yesterday as an attempt to "seize the high ground" on law and order from the conservatives. It is a pity to give it such a spin: this should be an issue on which all main parties could unite. Government briefings have already indicated a reluctance to take radical steps: with Labour, they should think again. The central aim must be how to shift the onus of justification. The question to ask is not whether an individual should be denied a firearms licence, but whether there is any good reason for the possession of such a weapon at all. Public opinion would accept this: politicians should lead.

No one's refugees

But the boat people are still people

THE VIETNAMESE boat people who have rioted over the weekend in Hong Kong have failed to attract sympathy from any quarter. They are regarded as the hard core of a wave of "economic migrants" who are now using violent means to avoid repatriation. Even the UNHCR has announced its intention of washing its hands of them. Local Hong Kong opinion has long been outraged by the cost of their support — mostly met out of the territory's own funds. The fact that many are Vietnamese *hoa* — ethnic Chinese — makes no difference to the Hong Kong Chinese (or to Beijing). After the last serious riots two years ago, there was real concern at the behaviour of the Hong Kong security forces and an official inquiry concluded that excessive force had been used. This time the violence appears to have been on the detainees' side. The popular Hong Kong desire to "get tough" and if necessary deport the remaining 18,000 en masse can be understood. There is no serious suggestion that the returnees will suffer persecution back home. The UN agency has interviewed 23,000 of those who have returned since 1989 without finding evidence of discrimination. The US is now proposing — and Vietnam may accept — a post-return re-interview which should also allay worries.

Yet should these people really be written off quite so comprehensively? When the boat people began to leave Vietnam, they were regarded as freedom seekers. US hostility to Hanoi ensured that no effective action was taken to begin repatriation for a number of years. Now those in Hong Kong face an arbitrary deadline of being returned by June 30, 1997 — because Britain promised to get rid of them before China takes over. In fact Beijing bears a measure of responsibility; many refugees travelled overland through south-east China while local officials turned a blind eye or collected bribes, only becoming "boat people" for the last few sea-miles to Hong Kong. The situation is even worse for another 17,000 in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia: they will be deprived of UNHCR aid next month in a strategy effectively designed to starve them out.

Amnesty International has expressed concern over some aspects of the screening procedure. There is also a problem in proving the Vietnamese identity of some detainees who may be refused re-entry by Vietnam. The Hong Kong government has proposed legislation to deny their right to stay — a worrying precedent on civil liberty grounds. Nor should it be forgotten that most refugees are not militant activists but women and children who have been confined behind barbed wire for years. This is a sad problem left over from a different past for which others bear some responsibility. Britain should not be bullied by Beijing into mass deportation by force which could easily lead to bloodshed. How to coax them to go back home remains a problem, but these are still human beings who should be treated humanely.

Studies in Degeneracy.

Fig 1

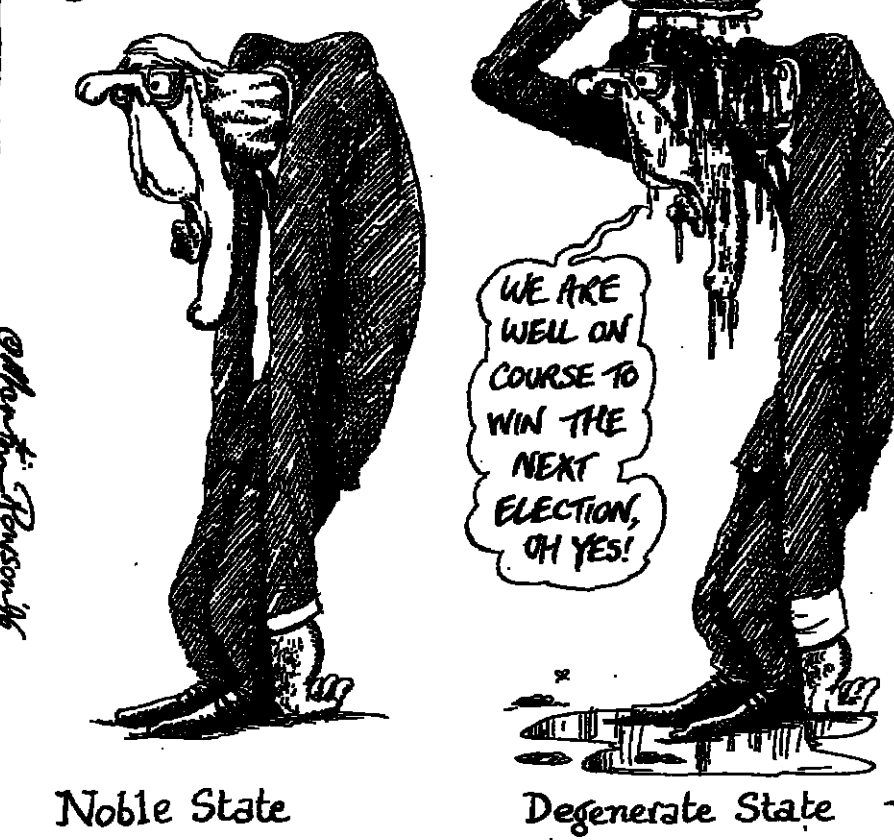


Fig 2 Noble State



Letters to the Editor

Of spies and story-tellers

IT IS NOT true that I was "sentenced to 25 years for passing secrets to Russia, including details of Britain's nuclear weapons" (Open season puts cat among mice, May 7). I have never been charged or tried for any offence concerning nuclear weapons. It is also wrong to say that I had been "recruited 20 years earlier by Victor Oschenko". No evidence was produced to confirm such a claim, other than propaganda emanating from MI5.

I did not work with sensitive military information at GEC and there is no evidence that I ever gave "Russians" or anyone else, any information about Britain's military hardware. I was convicted on the basis that I had in my possession some 10-year-old documents, one of which was classified Restricted. The Restricted document detailed a small component used in the Alarm missile but, as the component is sold commercially by GEC, it is not a sensitive device. The prosecution obtained my conviction by claiming the document would assist in the jamming of Alarm. I have since proved most of the prosecution's claims were untrue, as the information had already been published in books before my arrest.

Due to gross distortion and manipulation of evidence at my "in camera" trial, and these later accusations (without evidence) about a nuclear weapons offence, I have been forced to take my case to the European Commission on Human Rights, in an attempt to obtain the justice I cannot get in a British court.

YOUR article made great play of Helen Cresswell's contribution to the Enid Blyton television series with no mention of the chief writer, my client Julia Jones (Noddy goes moddy, May 7). Not only did Miss Jones write the bulk of the scripts, she wrote all the early ones which ironed out any problems of dramatisation and established the period, tone and character. Helen Cresswell was brought in later and took no part in the main decision-making.

GILL FOSTER
3 Lansdale Road,
London SW13 9ED.

Euro wise, pound foolish

YOU rightly state (Leader, May 9) that, for two years, the pound has been shadowing the Deutschmark, while remaining outside the ERM. Shadowing from outside means that the pound adjusts to the level set by the latter. Joining the system, however, would ensure adjustments are also made by the Germans, within the Central European Bank at stage III, when each member state shall have one vote over shaping monetary policy.

Alexander Kazanias,
Lecturer in European Studies,
Coventry University,
Priory Street,
Coventry CV1 5FB.

I BELIEVE myself to be reasonably intelligent and educated but I do not pretend to have more than the faintest understanding of the implications for this, or any other, country of opting for a single European currency.

We tend to be a conservative and rather xenophobic nation, prone to sentimentalism about such things as the dear old pound sterling. For that reason, we are vulnerable to tendentious party-political nonsense such as "handing over our sovereignty to the Brussels bureaucracy" or surrendering control of our economy to the Deutsche Bank, and do not, as we should, demand to know what would really happen.

AM OF that generation which remembers an earlier currency reform which decentralised our currency and confused our population in the name, we were told, of "harmonising with Europe". With that same end in view, the suffering British public have been submitted to the inconvenience of switching from imperial to metric measurements. I would want to see at least some reciprocal harmonisation from our European "partners" before approving a second currency reform in my lifetime.

W Lymes,
Fakenham Road,
Beetley,
Derham,
Norfolk NR20 4BT.

Prêt à Porter

THE BIG problem for Westminster now is how to readjust the balance of voters to pre-Porter days (Porter faces £31m bill, May 10). There are several possible ways, such as bussing in poor people of firm left-wing views from the surrounding areas at election time. Alternatively, home-owners could be persuaded to sell their properties and move into rented council flats in the same way as people were persuaded to buy. But then, who is to say when the balance is correct?

ONE is troubled by Westminster residents shouting at Shirley Porter that she should "Go back to Israel". There is the whiff of an old prejudice to taunt like that. Dame Shirley may have made some contemptible, even corrupt, decisions in her life. Her choice of domicile was not among them.

GERRY HARTBERG,
21 Garrick Avenue,
London NW11 5AR.

Unequal treatment from an ailing National Health Service

AS A GP, I can assure Prof Maynard that rationing is taking place all the time (Letters, May 11). However, there is no structure or consistency to this process. The care you get depends on a number of variables:

- The GP: is your relationship with them good or bad? What are their prejudices? Are they fundholders? Are they overspent? How old are you?
- Where do you live? What are your hospital services like? How good is the local consultant? How interested in private practice is he? How well trained are the junior doctors? Is it a teaching hospital?
- Do you live in the south-east? Every other region of the UK has proportionately fewer doctors. And the UK has fewer doctors than any comparable country.

All the above factors come into play in a random fashion to produce the covert rationing that allows the NHS to continue to function. It really is time that someone had the courage to start a national debate about the NHS. The mathematics are bone-jarringly simple. We can only buy so much healthcare per pound so either we spend the same and buy a rationed amount of first-class healthcare for a limited number of conditions or we dig deeper into our pockets to pay for the level of healthcare that we appear to want.

It is laughable that Stephen Dorrell believes we can find 3 per cent efficiency savings year on year. Industry achieves efficiency savings by a combination of new technology and new work practices. Unfortunately new technology and advances in knowledge will almost always add to the cost of healthcare rather than reduce it.

I find it deeply depressing (like most of my colleagues) but not at all surprising that politicians will not tackle this problem. The NHS will grind to a halt if nothing is done.

(Dr) Mark Hayes,
Fili Top Farm,
The Barr Lane,
Bardsey,
Leeds S17 9DX.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: Passing Esedale Tarn — surely the trippers' tarn par excellence — in a walk over Tarn Crag the other day, I remembered once being caught swimming in the middle of it, many years ago, by a violent cloudburst. My brother and I had done a round of the fells on an especially hot and humid day and, coming down to the tarn, decided a cooling dip was quite essential. We were well out from the shore — costumeless, of course — when the downpour began and it was still raining cats and dogs when we got back to our clothes, stuffed into rucksacks. So, to avoid getting drenched — we had no waterproofs in those days — we just pulled on our boots, shouldered our sacks and splashed through the deluge down to Grasmere in the afternoon. There was nobody to witness the awful sight — mass tourism hadn't yet reached the fells — and, later, we were able to dress in a shelter of the woods near Goady Bridge to emerge into civilisation, decent and

refreshed. On this recent visit I looked in vain for evidence of the old stone hut, built on a huge boulder at the side of the track, that used to stand above the eastern outflow of the tarn. I remember it well and must have purchased many bottles of mineral water there. The custodian at that time was an Irishman who, for a consideration, would bend six-inch nails into almost any required shape. Before his day, pots of tea were available at the hut, which I believe was built as a shelter for tourists visiting the tarn on ponies last century. During the holiday weekend, to avoid the crowds, we escaped to Black Combe, my first "mountain" more than 70 years ago. This splendid hill we had almost to ourselves: the bracing wind, the Lake-land fells, dappled in cloud shadows, the "white horses" on the beach nearly 2,000ft below. And the Furness peninsula, where I spent my boyhood, was spread out like a map.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

The Which? guide to fractious retirement

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

THIS is less of an essay than a warning. The next taxi driver, waiter, ticket collector, bus conductor or policeman who asks me if I am looking forward to retirement, risks death. I am changing jobs, not retiring. But I have become the victim of the modern assumption that anyone over 60 — only 10 years younger than the Republican candidates for the United States presidency — is being measured for a zimmer frame. There is also a widespread belief that being a Member of Parliament is so desirable an activity that no one is willing to give it up before rigor mortis sets in.

Naturally, that view is particularly popular with long-serving MPs who have begun to develop a greenish pallor. But it is a strange idea to be advanced by the general public, which holds the House of Commons in profound contempt. I actually like the

place. But 32 years is a long time in politics. Naturally enough, my political demise is eagerly anticipated by a number of financial institutions which have selflessly offered to help me make provision for my old age. I have been spared a letter from the insurance company which appeals on television for geriatrics to arrange their own funerals — thus sparing grieving loved ones the expense of a decent burial. But I have had much advice about how I should pass my lonely days. I told one potential care worker that I intended to plough my fields until I received a call to save the republic. He identified senile dementia at once.

Like Robert Browning, "I know full well what I mean to do, when the long dark autumn evenings come." But, at the moment, I am planning a scorching August.

So when I received a courtesy copy of the Which? 500-page Guide to Active Retirement, my only thought was that it was too heavy for the wrinkled bathers on the cover to lift. But a colleague — 23 and therefore deaf to the rat-

tle of time's winged chariot — showed me Chapter 26: it next door has trees on his mind, flying fruit is only the start of your problems. You are probably facing a root crisis.

For the active pensioner prefers litigation to bingo. Three roots may affect foundations and cause subsidence. The person on whose land the tree is growing will be responsible for the damage.

But whose land is it anyway? If some eminent emerges from an examination of the deeds to the property that the boundary wall or fence has been erected in the wrong place. All over Britain, unscrupulous ancients are even now calculating whether they would make more out of suing for root-induced damage or by staking a claim to the land which the roots have undermined. Their eventual deci-

sion will almost certainly depend on whether or not the fence was as decrepit as the man who read the Which? guide.

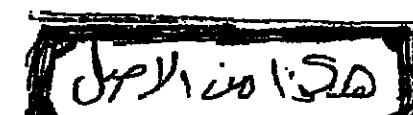
For a properly rotten fence provides the really creative trouble-maker with endless opportunities to keep young and healthy. Life can be made hell for the family on the other side of the decaying woodwork. If a fence collapses — "for instance, ruining your herbaceous border" — gardeners septuagenarians are entitled "to claim the cost of putting it right".

And do not imagine that they can be bought off with inadequate do-it-yourself repairs. The angry old chap with the crushed rose bushes is "not automatically bound to agree to access for repair work". Indeed, Which? makes clear to him that "anyone who enters your land without express authority ... commits an act of trespass". If you have a broken-down old fence and live next door to an active pensioner, you would do well to move house at once. But be careful as you leave not to wander off your own foot path. "Each time (your neighbours)

cross your property," Which? helpfully points out, "they are trespassing".

The Guide To Active Retirement actually provides a draft letter that outraged pensioners can copy out and send to people who are walking across their lawns, paddling in their fish ponds and swinging on the overhanging branches which will soon be sawn off at the point where they cross their property.

But it is not just the territorial imperative that the Guide offers as the secret of a contented old age. It suggests, in an amusingly direct way, how to react if you give a step ladder and a rung goes way — not as you might imagine, telephoning an ambulance but claiming compensation under the Sale of Goods Act. And so it goes on. How to return mail order goods. When to complain to the council about litter. Which bylaws deal with dogs that foul the pavement. Who is responsible when you trip over an uneven pavement. It sounds as if, in old age, we all become Mr Grouchers. Thank goodness I am too young to remember the Children's Hour programme in which he appeared.



Vladivostok Diary

James Meek

WHEN you ask them what used to be at Zelyony Ugol they shrug and look at you as if you were mad. That was five years ago! Ancient history! Just a bare hill, they say, and shrug again, and get on with the business of the day. There are three activities which bring people to this sprawling expanse of mud, gravel and kloaks every weekend: buying Japanese cars, selling Japanese cars, and hanging around in a leather jacket and flat cap looking hard. It is hard to believe, standing at the edge of the pavement in central Vladivostok, and wondering as the minutes tick past how anyone ever manages to cross a road, that at the beginning of the decade the car was a rare, precious and above all Russian-made thing here. Whole families pooled their savings and waited years, sometimes five, for the boxy object of Soviet consumer desire, the Lada saloon, to come trundling east on the Trans-Siberian railway.

Now there are no waiting lists, no tiny circle of Soviet motorists patting along the near-empty roads — almost no Ladas. Instead, Vladivostok hosts a ghostly replay of a Tokyo rush-hour of 1988: hundreds of thousands of second-hand Toyotas, Hondas, Nissans, Mazdas and Mitsubishi, spurned by their former Japanese owners as grubby and unsafe, strapped up by Russian traders and whisked by ex-Soviet merchantmen across the short sea-crossing to the market at Zelyony Ugol. The name means "Green Corner" — a reference, perhaps, to one of the Russian nicknames for the dollar, along with "bakel" and "yabage". Spread out across one of the hummocky heights which give Vladivostok the appearance of a deported Hong Kong, it is a spontaneous, wheeler-dealing free-for-all which sees hundreds of old Japanese vehicles up for grabs at prices far below that of a new Russian car. "Why should anyone want to buy a Lada now?" laughed one of the market organisers, who appeared to be supervising the entire operation from a shipping container held level on a steep slope with sales in hand. "You could buy three Japanese cars for the same price." Like the British, the Japanese drive on the left, and the Moscow government made protectionist noises a few years back when it threatened to prohibit the use of left-hand drive cars on Russian roads. The howls of protest from the Russian Far East were so furious that Moscow backed down. Nothing can save the once-proud giants of Soviet motoring here now, particularly since garages and repair shops have switched over to spare parts for Japanese cars.

There are more Ladas on the byways of rural Fife than in downtown Vladivostok. The Volga saloon, once the last word in softening the impact of a pothole on bureaucratic bottoms, is an endearing species. The poor old Moskvich, devised for unreliability even in Soviet times, is about to start looking for that great parking place in the sky.

The spirit of Soviet motoring has had a kind of revenge. They say that the 135-year-old city's narrow, cracked streets are no more suited to western levels of traffic than York's, and have come to these levels far more suddenly, local drivers — many of whom stung by licence fees from crowded traffic policemen — drive their fast, high-powered Japanese cars as if nothing had changed and the roads were still virtually empty. The base instincts of the Russian motorist make any other European driving tradition look generous and polite.

Perversely, despite the influx of cars, Vladivostok is one of the harder cities in which to use that great Russian innovation, the paid hitch — when you stick out your hand anywhere, a car stops, you give your destination, agree a price, and go. With the acquisition of foreign wheels, it seems, comes a nouveau-riche disdain for the pavement-bound pedestrian. In many former Soviet towns even ambulances will stop to give you a cheap ride, but in Vladivostok, fleets of empty Japanese minibuses will whizz past without stopping. As often as not, the one who takes pity will be the most despised and rejected of Far Eastern cars — the oldest, rustiest Moskvich.

I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING, IT MUST BE BROWN AND MANDELSON IN THERE. SHADON CABINET OFFICE.

Lessons in life from a striking Frenchman

Commentary

Mark Lawson

THE goal of the moment is rehabilitation. Eric Cantona — a year after his career seemed ruined and, to some observers, over — led his team up the steps at Wembley to accept the FA Cup won by his shot from bad boy to Boy's Own. Dreaming of a similar transformation, a tarnished star of another code of football, the British sportsman, conversed with Richard & Judy on ITV tonight, while the celebrity British polo player, CPAG Windsor, announces the appointment of a new media guru in the hope of re-establishing his grip on the British throne. Whatever they say about leopards and spots, all celebrity leopards these days employ spot-removers. OJ Simpson is, understandably, a sad and disillusioned man. It was the received cynicism of most observers of American culture that, late in the 20th century, notoriety was just another kind of fame and that Simpson would follow Michael Jackson, Woody

Allen, Mike Tyson and Donald Trump on the comeback trail. Equally, the logic of both American law and American capitalism seemed to be that someone buying a very expensive defence at least deserved to get their money's worth if the purchase proved successful. But Simpson got a shock. The exonerating verdict of 13 of his fellow countrymen has been largely ignored in the rest of America, while the accusers' memoirs of one of his failed prosecutors, Christopher Darden, storm up the New York Times bestseller list. And so — just as Richard Nixon did early in the days of his own disgrace — Mr Simpson has come to London and to the Oxford Union. His image-improving tour was designed by the publicist Max Clifford, Britain's established bag-carrier to media parishes. According to Mr Clifford, Mr Simpson is hoping to appeal to benefit from the fabled British sense of justice and fair play. He is even, his publicist lets slip, thinking of setting up home in Surrey. It is not hard to see the attractions of Surrey to Mr Simpson. Were he, for example, unfortunately to murder a couple of his neighbours, British legal process and contempt-of-court rules would ensure a near-silence in the media about the details until — blessedly non-televised — trial, while, were he to be

acquitted, he would be able to bring libel or contempt proceedings against anyone who suggested publicly that he had really done it. He is certainly right to see England as being fairer than America in its treatment of suspected murderers. Whether this comes from innate decency or from a stricter legal system is something he will have to judge for himself. Also, and I hope Mr Clifford has explained this to him, the best that he could hope for in Surrey would be to be ignored and left alone, whereas you suspect that what he is really seeking is the return of his celebrity. A keen golfer, he might also be crediting England with too much decency in one important respect. His main problem on the golf courses of the Home Counties would not be that he might have murdered his wife but that he is black. Let's hope that he appreciates as well that Mr Clifford can only do so much. Antonia De Sancta — whom the publicist represented against David Mellor MP — is now a largely forgotten actress, while Mr Mellor is, if you believe last week's papers, raking in hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. The Harkness family of South Africa — whom he represented in their sexual allegations against the Rt Hon Alan Clark — are now residing anonymously in the veld again, while Mr Clark is a

highly-paid journalist and best-selling author. Perhaps Mr Simpson's plan is to be forgotten. Certainly, it is a very ambitious rehabilitation plan that depends on an itinerary beginning with dinner with Michael Winner. Whether even the English, decent as they are, can forgive that act must be considered doubtful. The cases of the Prince of Wales and Mr Simpson are not exactly comparable: for a start, one has been stabbed in the back by his wife, while the other has the opposite problem. Even so, the hair to the throne is, reportedly, signing up Mark Bolland, director of the Press Complaints Commission, to do for him what Clifford does for Simpson, and what the American publicity guru Howard Rubenstein has just been retained to do for his former sister-in-law, the Duchess of York. Personally, if forced to

It is a very ambitious rehabilitation plan that begins with 'dinner with Michael Winner'

choose between doing PR for OJ Simpson or the Prince of Wales, I would go for the football player, on the basis that he is the easier sell. The problem is that the prince has already been subjected to nearly all of the standard rehabilitation tricks without success. There has been the soft television interview (with Jonathan Dimbleby), the adulatory book (ditto), the quick and aggressive response to any leaks or distortions from the other side (by

which we mean, here, the Prince of Wales). The last technique — successfully deployed by the Clinton administration in recent years — would, presumably, be one of the jobs of Mr Bolland. But none of these tricks has so far had any impact on the central problem of the Royal Family, which is that the public has sided with the removable part (Diana) rather than the fixed part (Charles). The only obvious solution would be for the Princess of Wales to be removed from the picture entirely, but that kind of thing, as OJ Simpson has discovered, can bring its own problems. And what is shown by Eric Cantona's final triumph over disgraces on Saturday is that public rehabilitation depends on two things. The first is a genuine attempt to deal with the problems of your own character. Early in the moment of victory on Saturday, Cantona was provided with provocation to attack a fan, when a thug sprayed him with saliva on the steps of the Royal Box. For a moment, his anger seemed to rise, but he forced it back down. This psychological adjustment is a possibility for other beleaguered celebrities but, more problematically, the second lesson from the Cantona affair is that recovery of public faith is best achieved by simply doing your job fantastically well. Rather like a troubled politician, Cantona has gained rehabilitation through success.

Unfortunately, as neither the Prince of Wales nor OJ Simpson really has a job, this course is not open to them. Perhaps the only option in these circumstances is to seek territory which is either more welcoming or at least indifferent. Moving to the west coast story should end, with OJ Simpson living near Windsor and the Prince of Wales residing near Los Angeles.

expect. And the increasing proportion of our senior politicians for whom politics has been their sole career exacerbates that tension. They understand the political system intimately, but that is not matched by an understanding of what makes organisations tick. They understand the concept of the floating voters, but not the needs of ordinary people in their daily working lives. The increasing short-term political pressures, political insecurity and new technology for handling information and communication, which makes it easier to take decisions centrally, will also strengthen the temptation to centralise decision-making.

THE answer for the future must be to build on, but not to throw away, the reforms that have already been achieved. Four specific steps would help to cure some of the present ills: Restoration of integrity to the way public services are managed and the acceptance of responsibility. The division between policy and operations will never insulate ministers from responsibility for what goes on in their departments. They do different jobs. Ministers set policy, provide money and supervise; civil servants manage operations and provide the services. But responsibility remains, essentially all the way up from the front-line employee through the chief executive to the minister concerned. An honest acceptance of that, with an understanding that ministers do not necessarily need to resign when things go wrong unless they are personally at fault, would go a long way to restoring confidence in the accountability of our public services.

Re-emphasis of the requirement of ministers to provide leadership for public services. They must win the hearts and minds of the people who serve the public. The affairs of centralisation must be resisted. Privatisation and contracting out have their place, even though opportunities are now fewer. Many of these services must remain in the public sector but the dead hand of central government needs to be kept away. That means giving services like immigration and prisons statutory independence from ministers, similar to that of the police. Ministers should set policy through the transparent mechanism of legislation, determine spending levels and perform the essential checks on efficiency through independent inspectors but no more.

Finally, the legitimate expectations of the public for information should be met. While the provision of information is voluntary, there will always be some who are economical or evasive. Only legislation — the Freedom of Information Act — will suffice. The public also has a right to hear a full debate on sensitive issues. It is a nonsense that heads of our largest agencies within the Civil Service are barred from expressing their views on the big policy issues, whereas those who run constitutionally-independent agencies, such as the Bank of England or the police, are free to express such views and do so without undermining ministers.

Derek Lewis was Director-General of the prison service from 1993 until he was dismissed by the Home Secretary last year

Thanks for the cultural capital, Dad



Ros Coward

IS British television becoming an inherited industry? If recent changes on the Big Breakfast show are anything to go by, it certainly looks like it. Gaby Roslin, daughter of radio presenter Clive Roslin, goes off to host her own chat show. She is replaced by Zoe Ball, daughter of erstwhile children's presenter Johnny Ball. Everybody knows about the aristocratic dynasties of the media like the Dimblebys. Now we see something different. All around, the offspring of minor media aristocracy are coming into their inheritance: Emma Forbes, daughter of Bryan Forbes and Nenette Newman; Caron Keating, daughter of Gloria Honeyford; Emma Freud, daughter of Clement of the dog-food and Lib Dem; Samantha Norman, daughter of Harry (himself son of Ealing film director Leslie) and so on. This does not just affect presenters. In the backrooms, amongst the commissioners and producers, showbiz dynasties are commonplace. Offspring of the major players in 60s television are now powerful broadcasting positions. Channel Four is well known for Michael Grade, scion of the Grade Tribe: Lew Grade, TV and film mogul, Bernard DeKont of The London Palladium, and Leslie Grade, a key agent. Less well-known is the concept of the floating voters, but not the needs of ordinary people in their daily working lives. The increasing short-term political pressures, political insecurity and new technology for handling information and communication, which makes it easier to take decisions centrally, will also strengthen the temptation to centralise decision-making.

ment. But it also reflects a peculiarly British obsession with crating ourselves as minor aristocrats, handing down advantage to our offspring. This has certainly happened in housing. A "property-owning democracy" may sound egalitarian and fair. But one generation down the line it creates vast inequalities between those who have inherited housing from their parents and those who have not. Now there even seems to be a Tory-Labour consensus that we should dismantle the welfare state so the property can still be inherited intact. The media represent cultural capital rather than financial wealth. In the past, politics would have been the place to find such dynasties. They now occur in the media, saying a great deal about where power is seen to reside. Cultural capital is especially valuable in an industry like broadcasting where there are no formal training structures. The scheme to set up standards qualifications is in its early stages. What counts is knowledge and contacts. It's a matter of how much you know about the risks and skills involved, and, probably more important, who you know. These are the intangible assets, or have that invaluable asset, a ready-made network. The rest have to work the Group Club.

MANY might say that British television is in the first place, that it has always been dominated by Reithian notions of broadcasting as a ruling-class instrument for educating and influencing the lower orders. This ethos persisted right through to the 70s with the BBC's graduate-training scheme. But since then, there hasn't been the same route of entry into an elite. Broadcasting is more fragmented, with multiple ways in and a diversity of institutions. But in spite of massive changes in the industry, including huge numbers of graduates emerging from media-studies courses, it is still run like a village. Only a handful of courses provide any real working knowledge of the industry, so how do the powerful make their selections? By recommendation, by networks, and by trusting the "good" families. History is full of examples of the degeneration of manners, ability and morality when capital gets trapped in families. You would think we had learned a lesson from weak, self-important, degenerate aristocracy of the 18th century. One look at Paula Yates (daughter of Jess Yates, television organiser) proves that the same process is at work in the transmission of cultural capital. Is it just coincidence that the obvious term for this new media aristocracy is mediocrity?



Free the servants

Derek Lewis lost his job in a row over responsibility for prisons. Here he explains how government agencies should be protected from incompetent or over-excited ministers

WHAT is happening in our key public services? The official story is that they have never been better after the radical surgery of the last decade. But there are signs that all is not well. Amid allegations that embarrassing research and statistics have been suppressed on a range of topics from criminal justice to the Health Service, critics who say that public services have become less open and accountable are starting to be heard. There is an all-time low. Relentless pressure to cut costs, and the threat to job security from market testing are blamed, while the Government stands accused of undermining its civil servants. There are clear signs that the relationship of trust between politicians and civil servants is breaking down. Responsibility is shared. The

marked contrast with the apparent readiness to centralise decision-making in some areas. Centralisation of decisions in the criminal justice world — about police management, probation-officer qualifications, prison regimes and mandatory sentencing — is at odds with the recognition that government cannot make good decisions in the commercial world. The big public-service reforms — Next Steps executive agencies, market testing and the Citizens' Charter — were supposed to cure the long-standing problems of our public services. Before condemning them a failure, it would be well to remember just how awful some of those services were and how much has been achieved — from the quality of postal services to the elimination of inhumane conditions in our jails. But equally, those reforms were never going to be a panacea. Executive agencies, for example, were not the great leap forward in management thinking that some people imagined. They were a face-saving label to enable the public sector to introduce basic management tools that any private-sector business would have been bankrupt without. Our public services suffered for decades from the recruit-

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Denis Sargan

Adding up the economy

Denis Sargan, who has died aged 71, transformed the teaching of econometrics...

Keynes's use of mathematics meant Denis realised the potential for mathematics and statistics in economics...



Denis Sargan... influential

new mathematical economics and econometrics courses introduced to train professional economists...

ment from the research frontiers — was legendary. Denis would lecture without reference to his notes...

ing his new tools, Denis demonstrated how important "real-wage resistance" is in wage bargains...

whom he married in 1953, his children and his interest in gardening and music...



Trail blazer... Patsy Montana

Sweet voice of the Old West

In 1935, Patsy Montana was the first female country singer to record a million seller...

updated her image in songs like Swing Time Cowboy. During the second world war, like many country artists...

Henry Clarke

Style always in Vogue

The career of Henry Clarke, who has died aged 77 of leukaemia, was eclipsed by those of Irving Penn...

and celebrity portraits. Perhaps this refusal to diversify, coupled with a whimsical orientation...



Picture of elegance... Henry Clarke and his models at Vogue's London studio in 1953

Vogue, by way of the magazines Femina and Album de Figaro and stints as salon photographer...

American very at home in Paris — is pure Henry Clarke: impeccably presented, unflinching...

(Parker) posing and clowning enchantingly... French-fried potatoes and red wine cluttering...

gathering dust in a Parisian bank vault, have been left to the Musée de la Mode et du Costume...

Michael Gerzon

An insight on sound

FIRST came across Michael Gerzon, who has died aged 50 from complications from asthma...

of "vectors". It sailed right over our heads. A thin young man stood up, and turning a flimsy square wire cage through angles...

Michael worked for 30 years as a consultant on digital audio, video and computer projects...

phonic systems would be right for home hi-fi. His arguments carried special weight because he was not just a maths theorist...

— than most people. Inevitably, Michael developed his own surround sound system, Ambisonics, which he worked on with other academics...

shaping, which lets recording studios squeeze higher fidelity on to CDs. His last work was for a voluntary industry group...

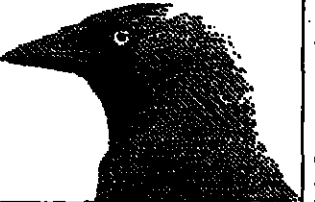
Birthdays

Sir Crispian Agnew of Leconow, Bt explorer and genealogist 62; William Allen, deputy director, Bank of England, 48; Luciano Benetton, founder and president Benetton, 61; Joe Brown, singer, guitarist, 65; Eileen Doss, theatre, film and television designer, 65; Jim Douglas, jazz guitarist, 54; Colin Ford, director, National Museum of Wales, 62; Peter Gabriel, singer, 46; Dr Jane Glover, conductor, 47; Sir John Habakkuk, former principal, Jesus College, Oxford, 61; Harvey Keitel, actor, 57; Sir Laurence Kirwan, archaeologist, 89; Tasmin Little, violinist, 31; Sydney Lipworth, deputy chairman, National Westminster Bank, 65; Tim Pigott-Smith, actor, 50; Sir Alfred Pugsley, civil engineer, 93;

Death Notices

UTTING, Eric A. 10.12.20 to 8.50.96. Has been survived by one son, two daughters, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, 10.12.96. Family notices in the Church of St. Andrew, 10.12.96.

Jackdaw



Goalkeepers will not be the only ones looking to make saves this summer when hordes of football fans converge on England for the European Championships...

muscles". This is illustrated with a photograph of the current England coach, Terry Venables, whose faith, if he has one, is not widely known. Yes, this is proclaimed the word by the Church Times.

were mixed in with dead pets and turned into animal feed since the start of 1995. A Swiss television programme investigated the links between contaminated animal feed and BSE, and found something much more disturbing, reported in New Scientist.

used to own, using your own money. You still have to buy the milk. Liberal Democracy: You have two cows. The Government gives you your cowhand the right to tell you what to do with the milk.

pushed back the photographers as the politicians advanced. As I stepped to the side to let the whole frenzied affair pass, so did the two politicians, pausing to peer down at the river. If not for a secret-service man between us, I could have touched Klaus. That's when I heard Major say, "So the river flows under this bridge, then?" Klaus, simply smiled politely. I saw the thought balloon above the Czech prime minister that said, "John, no wonder you're done in politics."

that was stated around the position that we girls can do anything, right Barbie? She had a briefcase, she had a computer, she had a Wall Street Journal and she had a credit card, but she wasn't just a business woman because... we had her outfit turn into this fabulous party dress. It seems really silly. And it was pink, of course. But it brought Barbie to a place where a little girl thought it was fun to play executive," she explained. This year it's Barbie and computers.

The Daily Express editor, Richard Addis, gives us an insider's view on what stand we can expect the Conservative papers to take on the general election. New Statesman Today and over the next 12 months it seems to me that the Conservative papers have four choices. The first is to develop an argument that says politicians, regardless of their party, have let us down. But given that the Tories have had two decades to make a mess of things, and they are all as bad as each other, we might as well give Labour a chance. The second choice would be to say that to be a true Tory — a one nation, devolutionist, welfare hotchpotch of a Tory one would now be turning to Labour: thus a moral Conservative should vote for Tony Blair. The third choice would be to say that, for all its manifold weaknesses and short-

comings, the Tory party is still a far better guarantee of Britain's prosperity and place in the world than anything New Labour could come up with and that we should all vote Conservative without hesitation. The final choice would be to argue that the Tory Party was the right party to govern Britain, but had so far betrayed its natural supporters and its history, that it was only by losing that it could rediscover its true spirit. New Labour, after all, would not be such a disaster for Britain and a reborn Tory Party could shortly return to power. Richard bets that at least three of these options will be covered in Tory papers by polling day. He declines to tell us what the Express will be saying, as to give it away would surely be spoiling the fun!

Cricket

Tour match: Gloucestershire v Indians

Symonds show for Test video

David Foot at Bristol

ANDREW SYMONDS may continue to keep us guessing about his England aspirations but the Test video footage at Bristol Road does not lie. His unbeaten century against the tourists yesterday placed him tantalisingly close to international recognition, whatever the paradoxes of his career. He was never reckless as he reached 100 by the close but his innings was positive enough to light up the day's play. All his 16 fours were crisp, many elegant; a six off Fumi Joshi was Jessopian and probably his straighter. His runs came off 130 balls and he always looked composed, despite the poker face, one imagines his intent is a matter of private, inner fervour.

Gloucestershire's "nursery" once a source of negligible talent, it is these days increasingly productive. It was now the turn of Dominic Hewson to earn general wisecrack nods of approval for his near three-hour innings on his first-class debut. There is nothing flash or wanton in his demeanour; that pervasive sense of safety perhaps offers a clue to the tongue-in-cheek nickname of Condem bestowed on him by team-mates.

He scored just six boundaries and then only when the bowler erred in direction, but the half-century was a reassuring introductory landmark before he was yorked by Anil Kumble. His stand with Symonds had steadied Gloucestershire when they appeared to be swaying at 38 for three. It was worth 140 runs, spread over 29 overs, with Symonds having more of the strike and supplying more of the aggression.

Before that, Bobby Bawson had been held at short leg. Monte Lynch to a catch at the wicket, and Tim Hancock fell when selecting quite the wrong ball to leave well alone. Lynch remained transfixed for an eternity before a contemporary walk-back. His had, after all, been a long and costly wait; he had been left out of the early matches after failing to put in an appearance for a second XI fixture, which brought him a reprimand and a heavy fine.

All three wickets went to Javagal Srinath in 10 balls, but he had opened with three consecutive maidens. Gloucestershire should surely have acquired by now an intimate knowledge of his



Cutting a dash... India's Rahul Dravid enjoying the experience of an unbeaten 86 at Bristol

pace and guile - from the nets and close-range observation last summer when he would surely have taken 100 wickets for them but for eventual injury and fatigue. His subtlety is admirable but it has to be said that India's overall bowling strength is of uncertain balance.

Earlier the tourists had taken their first-innings total to 406. Sourav Ganguly was held at slip in the second over of the morning off the persistent if largely unrewarded Jon Lewis. Rahul Dravid was undefeated on 86 at the end. His innings was proficient and a valuable, unhurried ex-

perience for him. He has few obvious prospects of promotion to Test level at the moment but his nine boundaries were well executed.

Mark Alleyne, captaining Gloucestershire in the absence of Courtney Walsh and Jack Russell, relies responsibly on a valuable, unhurried ex-

Rugby Union

Wigan pay hosts by making off with silver

Chris Hewett on how the rugby league club tweaked more southern noses by winning the Middlesex Sevens

THERE'S gratitude for you. No sooner had the Rugby Football Union rung down the curtain on a century of cold-shouldering and thrown open their inner sanctum to the chill winds of professionalism than Wigan delivered the oldest sucker-punch in the book. The Trojan Horse had nothing on events at Twickenham on Saturday. Shaun Edwards and his extravagantly gifted league Titans won the Middlesex Sevens at a canter and in so doing served notice on the long-displaced southern cousins that an even greater humiliation was being meticulously planned for a fortnight hence. Wigan take on Bath under 15-a-side rules at the same stadium on May 25 and on the latest evidence no one will be risking too much money on the state of the union.

If Edwards had always dreamt of playing at Twickenham it is a fair bet that the long-displaced southern cousins that an even greater humiliation was being meticulously planned for a fortnight hence. Wigan take on Bath under 15-a-side rules at the same stadium on May 25 and on the latest evidence no one will be risking too much money on the state of the union.

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Paul's displays against Richmond and Quins were of breath-taking quality and had he not missed the climax of the competition with ankle trouble Leicester and Wasps might have suffered even greater embarrassment. Without him Wigan still put a total of 11 tries past the two biggest guns ranged against them.

It was a chastening experience for Lawrence Dallaglio, a renowned sevens specialist and hot favourite to take over the England captaincy at the end of the summer.

His Wasps side matched Wigan for desire and beat them hands down for possession, but were light-years adrift in the more fundamental physical qualities of pace and dynamic strength.

These players are fully professional in outlook and preparation and it will be interesting to see how we compete against them a year from now when we had the benefit of a season's full-time fitness work," he said. "I still think Bath will win the union game, but it will obviously be a whole lot closer than the league game between the two sides last week."

Heineken League: Treorchy 31, Neath 58

Neath strike it rich but need one more bonus

Robert Armstrong

NEATH can expect to take the Heineken League title at the Gnuil tomorrow night provided they beat Pontypridd and score at least seven tries. That outcome to their final game would leave their closest rivals Cardiff, who are level on points but six behind on try count, needing to score 14 tries against Llanelli at the Arms Park to finish ahead of the Welsh All Blacks.

The bonus-points system for tries, which gives a winning team between two and five points, is ideally suited to Neath, whose dynamic ball-handling style propelled them about the possible loss of Treorchy were not overwhelmed - indeed their five tries brought two bonus points - but Neath's superiority in pace and technique put them in a different class.

"We are vulnerable to transfer raids by well-off clubs because there's not a great deal of wealth in Neath," the coach explained. "But we have quite a number of talented players aged 19, 20 or 21 in the side, so we're optimistic about keeping it all going and perhaps winning things."

Among Neath's scorers at The Oval was the former Wales captain Paul Thorburn, who at 33 may well have played his last game for the club. Next season he will focus his energies on his new job as tournament director for the 1999 World Cup.

Jones remains philosophical about the imminent departure of senior players such as the Llewellyn brothers Gareth and Glyn, but is less sanguine about the possible loss of Treorchy were not overwhelmed - indeed their five tries brought two bonus points - but Neath's superiority in pace and technique put them in a different class.

It is a coincidence that third-placed Pontypridd, who beat Neath in the Welsh Cup final nine days ago, once again stand between the young pretenders and a major title. Having scored a total of 114 tries in 21 league games, Neath are desperate not to be denied a second time. One thing is certain: the Gnuil will be no place for neutrals.

Tennents Scottish Cup final: Hawick 17, Watsonians 15

Crowd inspires Hawick to first prize as Welsh caps fightback with late try

Gordon Lyle

THE clever money will be on Hawick if they ever qualify to compete in a European Cup, since every tournament they contest for the first time seems to end in triumph. First winners of the venerable Border League in 1902 as well as the Scottish Championship in 1974, they extended the sequence with this victory over Watsonians in the inaugural final of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Long before the silverware was handed over and paraded around the town on the upper deck of an open-top bus yesterday, Scottish club rugby revelled in unprecedented scenes. Sky-divers, a gladiatorial anthem to welcome the teams, and the release of thousands of balloons were

all in the package as the old lady of Murrayfield pitched her skirt. A crowd of 22,759 savoured the occasion. Jim Hay, Hawick's international hooker whose heel against the head at a late scrum near his own posts denied Watsonians a chance of a match-winning drop goal, summed up the atmosphere. "The Pilkington Cup in England and seven or eight thousand of them took a few years to build up into a showpiece. Hopefully this can be a big event too if everybody gets behind it like the Hawick people did. We've only got a population of 15,000 but nearly everybody seemed to be at Murrayfield."

Hockey

GB revenge denied on spot

Pat Rowley

ROB THOMPSON'S 50th international goal was not enough for Britain to avenge their 3-2 defeat a week ago by Malaysia on the final day of the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament at Ipoh. Britain drew 2-2 in the third-place match and lost 4-3 on penalties.

Thompson, captain for the day, scored a 20th-minute equaliser, his 34th goal for Britain, as he moved to turn in Philip McGuire's free-hit. In close to 100F Malaysia's Mun Fatt Lam had earlier intercepted a pass by Jon Wyatt on the half-way line and raced through to score. Malaysia went ahead again

Cricket

Counties update

Table with 2 columns: County, Runs, Wickets. Includes Derbyshire 31, Middlesex 40, Durham 33, Northants 41, Essex 33, Nottingham 42, Gloucestershire 35, Somerset 43, Hampshire 38, Sussex 45, Kent 37, Warwickcs 47, Lancs 38, Worcester 48, Leics 39, Yorkshire 48.

Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30. Calls cost 30p/min plus 40p/min at all other times. Supplied by IMS, 15 Mark Lane, Leeds LS1 5LB. Helpline 0171 713 4473

Sport @ The Guardian

Scoreboard

AXA Equity & Law League

Table showing cricket scores for Lancashire v Leicestershire, Leicestershire v Yorkshire, Yorkshire v Derbyshire, and Derbyshire v Warwickshire.

Hampshire v Essex

Table showing cricket scores for Hampshire v Essex.

Middlesex v Durham

Table showing cricket scores for Middlesex v Durham.

Northamptonshire

Table showing cricket scores for Northamptonshire.

Brown blasts the doctor in new carry-on

ALISTAIR BROWN, six-day specialist for Surrey, proved his pinch-hitting prowess again yesterday as Surrey beat Kent, the Sunday champions, by 150 runs at The Oval. If Ray Illingworth's new band of selectors are not to be tarred with the brush of their imaginative predecessors they will surely name Brown next weekend in their squad for the one-day internationals against India.

Yorkshire v Derbyshire

Table showing cricket scores for Yorkshire v Derbyshire.

Derbyshire v Warwickshire

Table showing cricket scores for Derbyshire v Warwickshire.

Warwickshire v Gloucestershire

Table showing cricket scores for Warwickshire v Gloucestershire.

Surrey v Kent

Table showing cricket scores for Surrey v Kent.

Saturday's board

Table showing cricket scores for various matches on Saturday.



LACOSTE

SOCER: FA CUP FINAL

Manchester United, England's wealthiest club, are still cleaning up the silver. But do they have enough polish for Europe?

United conquer Everest — again

David Lacey

ONE inspired passing shot amid repetitive baseline play settled an otherwise uninspiring game of doubles at Wimbledon on Saturday and spared everybody a tie-break. No wonder the Duchess of Kent, who does not wear thermals to watch this sort of thing at Wimbledon, gratefully stretched out a frozen hand to greet Eric Cantona as soon as he approached the Royal Box.

Cantona's second most famous kick in English football had just completed Manchester United's second Double in three seasons, adding the FA Cup to the Premiership title won six days earlier. The Double used to seem beyond the reach of the most accomplished teams, United among them, but now, like Everest, it is becoming a well-conquered peak.

United are the first club to achieve the feat twice but will surely not stop there. Since a Premiership plutocracy was created, the wealthiest club have won the two major domestic honours five times out of a possible eight and have been runners-up twice.

Not that it has all been about spending power; Andy Cole, an expensive error at £7 million, proved as much on Saturday. Success in football will always be about talented players soundly managed, and under Alex Ferguson United have won nine trophies in the Nineties, not counting two Charity Shields.

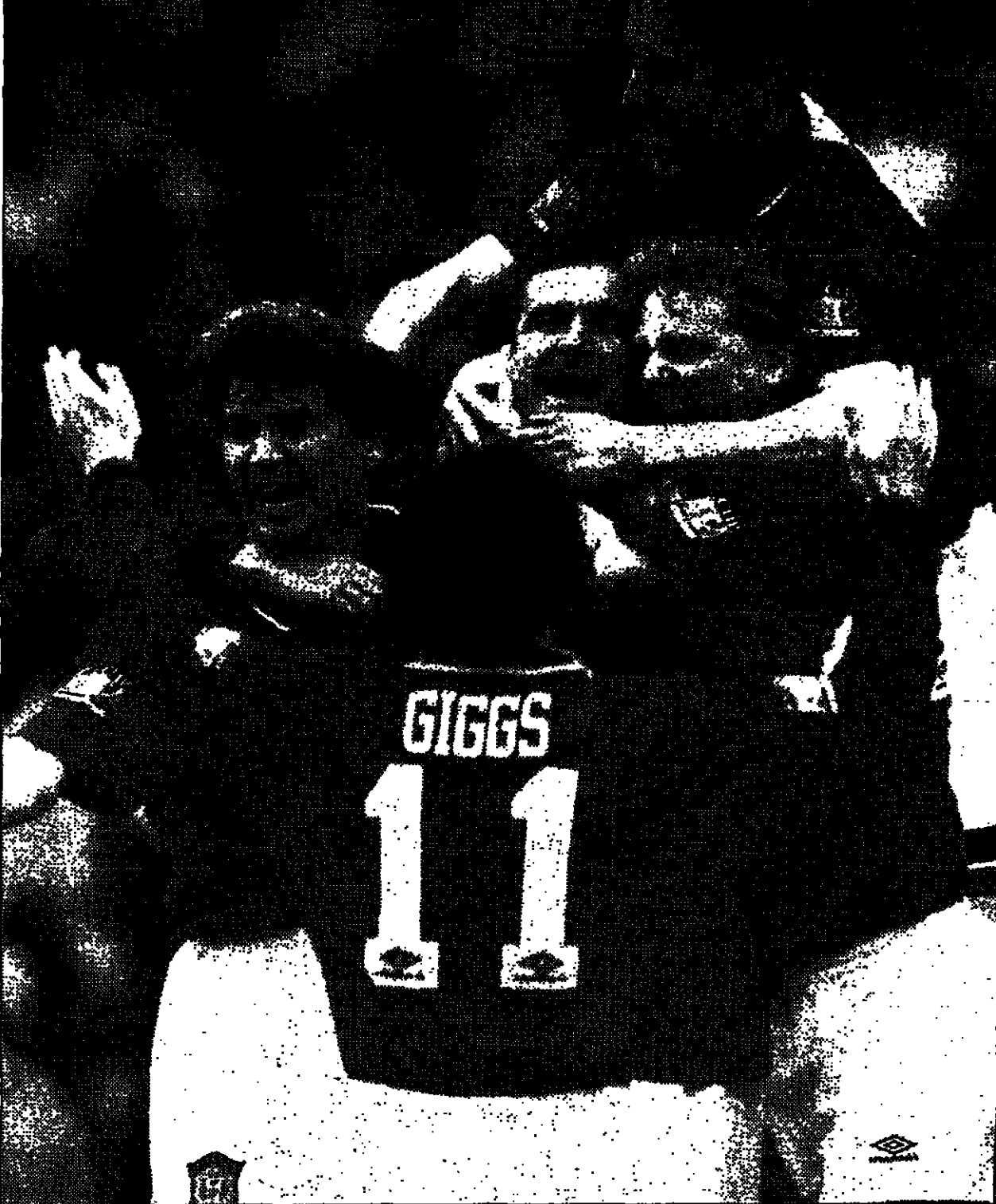
Wisely, in his latest moment of triumph, Ferguson managed to keep a sense of proportion. "It is tempting to think that nothing could be better than today," he said, "but there's that challenge to do better in Europe next time. And it's going to be better, I'll tell you that right now."

It needs to be. Unless United make a bigger impact in the Champions League than they have done so far, then the latest triumph will be short-lived.

Another Double for United means that Liverpool will be competing in the next Cup Winners' Cup as FA Cup runners-up, a role which on Saturday they assumed as if to the manner born. This is an odd thing to say about Liverpool but theirs was a strangely withdrawn performance. Maybe the fact that they had been winding down in the Premiership while United were winning it played a part in conditioning the team's approach. United, with urgent thoughts of the Liverpool rarely shook off their languor.

The more the match was hyped as the final to end all finals the more disappointing the overall spectacle was likely to be. Riveting it was not. It was more like watching a fight.

Had James not pushed aside Beckham's goal-bound shot in the fifth minute the match might have opened up and Wembley would not have



United in happiness... Cantona is swamped by his team-mates after scoring the late winner

had to wait until five minutes from the finish for something significant to happen. Yet the moment Ferguson announced that he wanted his players to have fun at Wembley, an afternoon devoid of this commodity was virtually guaranteed. Fun be damned. His industry, covering, positioning and tackling ensured that McManaman's runs were largely diverted into cul-de-sacs. Only McAtseer, wide on the right, made regular progress.

As a result Collymore and Fowler were starved of service. Neither disturbed Schmeichel's afternoon and only Collymore forced the Dane to make a save. Against Keane, Liverpool needed a greater physical presence in midfield than Barnes and Redknapp could provide. Yet Thomas only appeared once a goal had been conceded. Rush's farewell appearance was announced with 20 minutes remaining but the exhausted Barnes, not Collymore, should have gone off. Cole had left seven minutes earlier. His poor first touch had been half-chances for United slip away during their early period of domination and his eventual replacement by Scholes was inevitable. Cole hardly looks the man to

strike fear into European defences next season. The goal followed a sloppy sequence of events which typified the game: a missed tackle by McManaman, a misplaced pass by Butt and a sliced clearance from Babh that gave United a corner on the right. As Beckham prepared to take the kick Cantona was hovering near the penalty spot. Then, as the ball came over, he backed off in anticipation. Previously James had caught everything, as well as keeping out an earlier far-post volley from Cantona. But now, in going for the corner, he was not quite all there. His punch lacked weight and simply dropped the ball to where Cantona was lurking in the arc.

Showing the same mastery of body control as when he gave his kung-fu demonstration at Crystal Palace, the Frenchman volleyed a shot through a thicket of players and into the net. A few minutes later he completed his rehabilitation in football by receiving the Cup and a Duchess's congratulations. To the sub-species who spat on him as he was mounting the steps to the Royal Box Cantona offered nothing more than a withering look — which would have been a wiser response at Selhurst Park.

Richard Williams, like millions of others, was disappointed with the final and blames Alex Ferguson's tactics.

THE capture of the historic double by Manchester United's achievement in becoming the first team to win the FA Cup nine times, will dominate the coverage of their last-minute triumph at Wembley on Saturday. Yet the nature of the 1-0 victory over Liverpool raised at least as many questions as it answered.

It is naturally tempting to concentrate on enjoying the extraordinarily dramatic climax of Eric Cantona's "beautiful adventure" and to join the chorus of praise for Alex Ferguson's success in bringing a set of largely home-grown young players through to maturity. But the 85 minutes of play leading up to the Frenchman's decisive strike had provoked another set of emotions which should not be swept away by mere relief at a satisfactory denouement.

A poor match settled by a moment of individual brilliance came at the conclusion of a season which saw the repeated humiliation of English sides in international competitions for reasons which are widely recognised if only dimly understood.

Memories of terrible nights against Spartak Moscow, Rotor Volgograd, Brondby, IFK Gothenburg and Bayern Munich were swiftly — too swiftly — dimmed by the crash-bang entertainment of the closing stages of the Premiership campaign, and by a self-satisfaction founded on the new commercial prosperity. On the eve of the arrival of the continent's best teams for the finals of Euro '96, the style of Saturday's match once more aroused serious doubts about English football's place in the wider scheme of things.

obedience to instructions, as much as through Cantona's moment of momentary madness. Ferguson was permitted another hour's play.

Yet it was swollen with a fraction of the heritage hype, we can hardly help but share in a belief that the FA Cup belongs not merely to the winners but to all who take part in it, whether as players or spectators. It is the property of the "knighted" public, and beyond even that is the FA's cherished notion that the competition holds a special place in the world game.

So somebody had better say that the master of Manchester United's latest victory was

When the Theatre of Dreams sends its repertory company out for a gala performance, something special is anticipated — even required, since United rarely miss an opportunity to remind outsiders of their own unique qualities.

unacceptable, and it might as well be a sympathetic neutral who has taken an unbiased pleasure in their progress to fulfilment under Ferguson, a manager whose heart is unquestionably in the right place but whose instincts sometimes lead him astray.

above all must be awarded the club's prize. The trophy is a possession of the club, not of the manager, and it is the club's right to award it to its own players.

There have been times in Manchester United's history when the challenge of attack-minded opponents would have been seen as an opportunity to fight "the wall". What would have happened on that famous night at Wembley almost 30 years ago had Best, Charlton and Aston been as assiduous in observing defensive roles as Gigg, Butt and Beckham's sweeper Scholes? Would a more aggressive defence still have outscored Rush, Simons and Barnes in the European Cup final?

Even before Saturday's match, United knew that they were back in the European Cup next season. They had nothing to fear on that score. The Cup final should have been an occasion for self-expression, a day to give a player such as Gigg the chance to display his skills for the general enjoyment.

Neither team should defend itself that Saturday's cautious tactics will do the job in Europe. Frank Clark's faith in "caginess" during Nottingham Forest's UEFA Cup saw his team through against Auxerre and Lyon, after being embarrassingly outplayed, but the strategy came apart against Bayern Munich.

To play the ball around at the back under no pressure, as both Liverpool and United did, is to misunderstand what Beckenbauer was doing 30 years ago, and what Baresi and Blind are doing today. Liverpool's tactic of trying to release surrogate wingers up the touchlines is simply Old English football in modern guise. The message of the world game today is one of sophisticated attacking by players who can move forward as a unit, using angles to take opponents out with every pass.

Butt, Beckham, Gigg and Cantona played a handout of a quality that would be the standard requirement for a player with Ajax or Milan; otherwise they were forced to operate within a format that turned the clock all the way back to Helmut Herrera's mid-Sixties' international, the unruly apostles of all-out defence. Nothing but English football in modern guise. The message of the world game today is one of sophisticated attacking by players who can move forward as a unit, using angles to take opponents out with every pass.

But United have already won trophies galore during the years of his stewardship. More importantly, as he

Entertainments & Travel

A large grid of advertisements for theatres, music, and travel. Includes sections for 'THEATRES', 'MUSIC EXTRA', 'THEATRE LONDON', 'OVERSEAS', 'FLIGHTS', and 'WEST COUNTRY'. Specific ads include 'ARTISTS', 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA', 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK', 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS', 'GREASE', 'MISS SAIGON', 'DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER', 'THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY', 'SPANISH Affair', and 'FLIGHTFILE'.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Soccer: The Play-offs

First Division: Charlton 1, Crystal Palace 2

Bassett's bark makes Palace bite

Russell Thomas

CRYSTAL PALACE, benefiting from a typically forthright Dave Bassett lecture at half-time, overcame acute early embarrassment at The Valley yesterday in their first London play-off.

single out his 6ft 6in central defender Andersen for the blunder that threatened to hand Palace's day as early as the 55th second. It was a mile take on a scale to match the size of the Norwegian.

Andersen was under no immediate pressure from any Charlton player when Jackson from the right flank delivered the game's first cross. The Palace defender fell, most deliberately, to his knees to deliver an intended clearing header. Martyn somehow blocked the deflection with a leg but Newton drove the rebound home.



Armed rivals... Ruffs of Charlton, left, and Palace's Ndah in mid-air combat at The Valley

Leicester City 0, Stoke City 0

Poole harbours hope

Michael Walker

Poole is not often mentioned in dispatches from Filbert Street but an incident in the fifth minute yesterday brought him to mind. Poole, Leicester's goalkeeper, had already stuck out a foot when Strudger was put clean through by Claridge's faulty back-pass. Then Devlin, Potter headed and Poole threw himself across goal to save a seemingly certain goal. As Banks was watching here, the connection was made.

chances to at the Victoria Ground on Wednesday. Stoke will start as favourites then, though Leicester's record away is better than at home. Stoke, who finished two points ahead of Leicester in the league, were the pick of two mediocre teams, better organised defensively and more resilient in midfield, with Sheron and Strudger up front epitomising the whole team with their purposeful, selfless running.

Second Division: Bradford City 0, Blackpool 2

Seasiders swim with tide

Ian Ross

THIRD limbs and tired minds reduced to a moribund spectacle this first-leg meeting of two clubs aspiring to lock horns with the First Division's finest came August. Sadly, it was a mirror image of so many other play-off semi-finals: a dull and fractious affair stripped bare of all niceties.

chairman Geoffrey Richmond has hinted he has money to spend.

Blackpool are similarly optimistic about the future, even if it was with some reluctance, and a little regret, that they took their place in yesterday's game; except for a loss of form so dramatic as to beggar belief it would have been they, and not Oxford United, accompanying Swindon Town on the automatic-promotion track.

rough and tumble, and Blackpool were the better side by a Golden Mile. But though dominating Bradford was easy, translating an obvious supremacy by way of goals proved more difficult.

The goals that should carry the Seasiders to Wembley came late. Tony Ellis drilled in smartly after 72 minutes and Mark Bonner headed in Andy Watson's marvellous cross with calm authority six minutes later.

THE FA's chief executive Graham Kelly has formally approached Bristol City for the release of their assistant manager John Gorman so that he can join the England coaching set-up under Glenn Hoddle.

FA goes formal for Gorman

It is thought that Gorman will become an assistant to Hoddle as well as taking over the scouting duties of Ted Burton. Gorman was Hoddle's No. 2 when the new England coach was in charge of Swindon three years ago.

Dundee United's chances of a return to the Scottish Premier Division dramatically improved when Christian Daily scored an equaliser in the 86th minute of their dramatic relegation play-off against Partick Thistle at Firhill.

"The most important goal of my life," said the 22-year-old after he had set up a tantalising second leg at Tannadice on Tuesday. Thistle had taken the lead after 19 minutes from an Andy Lyons free-kick. Crewie, two goals up in 17 minutes, were pegged back to a 2-2 draw by Notts County in the Second Division play-off at Wembley. Carl Clark thanks to a last-minute strike by Gary Martin-Rivers had scored for Crewie but County had fought back with a goal from Steve Finnigan. Flynn's manager Neil Warnock claimed his players had been hit by missiles thrown from the crowd during the 1-0 defeat at Colchester in the Third Division play-off. The division's other game at Edgar Street but Darlington fought back to win 2-1. Brigg Town had a comfortable 3-0 victory over Clitheroe in the FA Vase. Carl Clark gave Brigg the lead with a superb goal after 37 minutes and scored his second in the 68th minute with a well-taken penalty. Clitheroe's Steve Lampkin contributed the third with an own-goal. Amcarron won their first French league title and their first double with a 1-1 draw at Guingamp on Saturday. Borussia Dortmund retained the German championship when Bayern Munich lost 2-1 at Schalke.

Weekend results

Table of weekend sports results including Soccer, Football League, Rugby League, and other sports.

Rugby League

Table of Rugby League results including Super League and other competitions.

Baseball

Table of Baseball results including American League and National League.

Tennis

Table of Tennis results including Wimbledon and other tournaments.

Ice Hockey

Table of Ice Hockey results including NHL and other leagues.

Sport in brief

McRae crashes out of Indonesia Rally

THE world champion Colin McRae crashed out of the latter stages of the rain-hit Indonesia Rally yesterday when leading the three-day event comfortably by three minutes. The Scot, hit by failure in the interim link with his navigator Derek Ringer, lost control of his Subaru Impreza on a muddy stretch and went into a series of high-speed rolls. Both men were unhurt.

Doohan handed Jerez victory

MICHAEL DOOHAN, Australia's 500cc world champion, won motorcycle's Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez yesterday after Alex Criville crashed when leading into the final bend. The Spaniard had fended off challenge after challenge for 34 of the race's 37 laps but, with the finish in sight, Doohan's Honda took Criville on the inside and the local idol lost control as he tried to respond. He walked away apparently unhurt. Doohan faced a chorus of whistling on the victory podium but videos confirmed he had played no part in causing the crash.

Motorola pulls plug on cycling

THE electronics company Motorola is to pull out of cycling sponsorship at the end of the season. Team Motorola are led by the American former world champion Lance Armstrong, who went into yesterday's final stage of the Tour Du Pont with a clear lead, and are the only American team in the Tour de France. The world pursuit champion Graeme Obree is expected to unveil his new monocoque bike at the British track championships, which open at Manchester Velodrome on Friday week. With his home-made "special" models running into problems with officialdom, the Scot has turned to the Devon-based constructor Hotta.

World Bowl for Murrayfield

THE Scottish Claymores will be the home team in this summer's World League of American Football World Bowl game after holding Frankfurt Galaxy pointless in the Galaxy's first defeat of the season, beating them 20-0 in front of 32,000 German fans at the Waldstadion on Saturday, writes Michael Carlson. The Claymores ended the season's first half with a 4-1 record by shunting down a Galaxy offence averaging 37 points a game, earning a Murrayfield finale when James Fuller — cut by Frankfurt in the pre-season — led the way with two interceptions. Meanwhile, the Monarchs' misery continued when the London side put on another woeful offensive display to lose 28-9 at the Amsterdam Admirals. T C Wright scored three touchdowns, including one on an 85-yard punt return, as London lost for the fourth time in five games.

Stockdale believes in Santa's

TIM STOCKDALE and Toggi Santa's Echo continued their winning run yesterday when they took the Barbour Grand Prix in decisive style at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, writes John Kerr. In a seven-horse timed barrage for a £3,200 prize the Chesham rider and his 15-year-old Irish-bred grey achieved the only clear round, after Ireland's Marion Hughes and another grey, Pio-Jo, found rare pace to go round the quicker by more than three seconds but hit the final double to finish second. George Bowman led throughout in winning the horse teams section, the senior division of the Harrods International Driving GP, for the 10th time in 22 years.

Davies plays to the gallery

THE former real tennis world champion Wayne Davies beat his fellow Australian Paul Tabley 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the BNB Resources British Professional Championship at Holyport near Maidenhead yesterday, writes David Davies. Davies is now New York-based, Tabley is the Holyport club professional.

Advertisement for 'MORE money' featuring interest rates of 10.5%, 11.9%, and 12.9% with details on loan terms and contact information.

Final fling foils Hingis, page 12
Doubling up with United, page 14

Symonds shows tons of promise, page 13
Kick-starting the play-offs, page 15

Sports Guardian

Christie wins but will not be drawn on Olympics

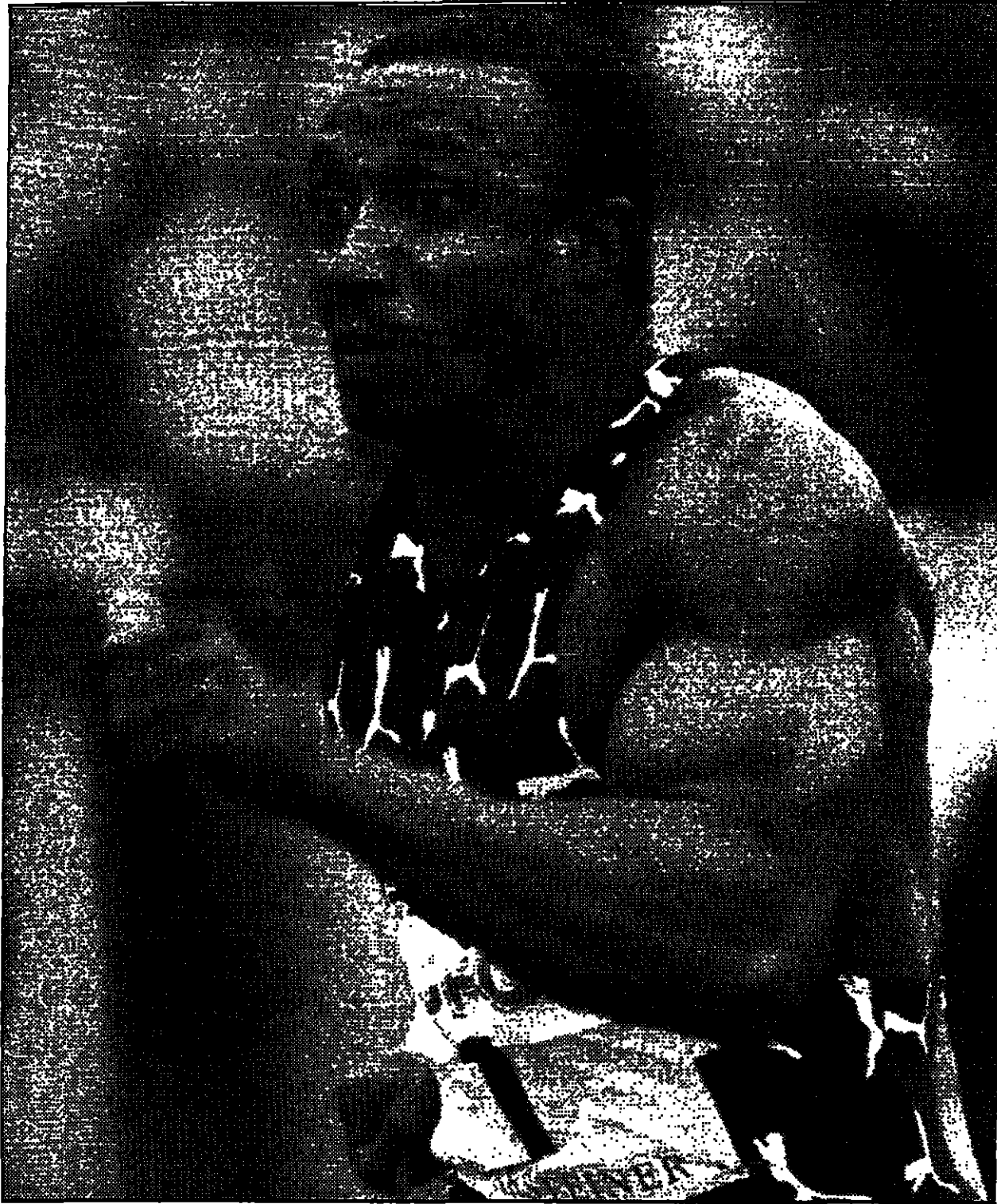
Duncan Mackay

LINFORD CHRISTIE made a highly encouraging start to what he says will be his last season when, on a dank afternoon before a handful of spectators in a small stadium in Arnsberg, Germany yesterday, he won the 100 metres in 10.20sec. But he refused to end the speculation about whether he will be on the start line in Atlanta 75 days hence to defend his Olympic title.

After leaving a field that included the European indoor 60 metres champion, Marc Blume of Germany, and the improving Belgian Patrick Stevens trailing with a powerful last 50 metres, Christie made it clear he had no intention of making his plans public for a while yet. "No Olympic questions" were his first words as he walked into the post-race press conference. "I am running one race at a time. Only God knows the future; I don't. I am just having fun at the moment. If I go to the Olympics you'll see me. But you won't see me next season; this is definitely my last year."

Nearly 12 months have passed since Christie wept on television and declared that the pressure was too much for him and he would not defend his Olympic crown. But he has trained with the same commitment as for the past decade.

"They have all been asking, 'Is Linford going?'" said Christie. "I leave them to it. I don't need the pressure. If I go to the Games, there is nothing to prove. I've done it before. I've won everything there is to win."



Muscle machine... 'No Olympic questions' said Christie after yesterday's 100 metres win

PHOTOGRAPH: JØRGEN SCHWARZ

Yet it is hard to believe someone as competitive as he would be content with a valedictory tour round the Grand Prix circuit knowing that, despite turning 36 last

month, he is still capable of aspiring to the title of the world's fastest man. He is unlikely, though, to commit himself before next month's Olympic trials in

Birmingham, by which time he should have had the opportunity to measure himself against some of his rivals and have a clearer idea of what his chances

would be in Atlanta. Many of those rivals have already shown some sharp early-season form. Donovan Bailey ran 10.07sec in Rio recently; Frankie Fredericks ran an effortless 10.09 in Osaka on Saturday; Carl Lewis is in his best shape since he beat Christie for the world title in Tokyo five years ago.

But before anyone is tempted to suggest that Christie is already off the pace, it would be wise to remember that his time in Arnsberg was faster than the 10.20sec he ran at the start of his Olympic-winning year in 1992 and the 10.26 in his first race in 1993, the season he won the world title in Stuttgart and set his European record of 9.97. "It was not too bad for a first race," said Christie, who was paid \$27,000 (£18,000) to run yesterday.

Bates blows Chelsea pact

Martin Thorpe

THE peace pact between the Chelsea chairman Ken Bates and the club's millionaire director Matthew Harding has come apart. Harding had promised to put £10 million into team building but, only a week after losing Glenn Hoddie, Bates is expected today to freeze out Harding by formally withdrawing the offer of a partnership in the club.

This would have seen the young pretender made vice-chairman, and chairman of the committee to oversee playing affairs and transfers, and would have given him equal shares with Bates in Chelsea.

It is understood that Bates has lined up alternative sources of finance. This means that the new player-manager Rudi Gillit can continue to try to realise the club's aim of turning the Chelsea team into a force to be reckoned with. He plans to sign top international players; Vialli and Klinsmann are among those mentioned. It is almost certain to restart the public row between Harding, the darling of many supporters, and Bates, the respected but prickly chairman.

Bates's decision is under-



Harding... froze out

stood to have been prompted by his growing impatience with Harding's delay in signing the partnership agreement. The deadline was April 30, then an extension was agreed. But the final straw is thought to have come on Friday, when Harding made more demands.

Harding says he has delayed signing because Bates will not furnish him with the information he needs about who actually owns Chelsea Village, the company that owns the club. Bates owns only about a third of its shares; ownership of much of the rest has never been publicly revealed.

And so we have the latest round in a highly public spat

between Bates and Harding which began last year and culminated in Bates banning Harding from the directors' box in November. The pair then appeared to make up and put forward their partnership plan, which included Chelsea being floated on the Alternative Investment Market.

Harding's financial commitment to the club he has supported for most of his 42 years is not as substantial as it appears. Although he did agree last year to take over the £16.5 million bank loan on Stamford Bridge, it is understood he is charging Chelsea £250,000 a year rent. Part of the aborted agreement with Bates would have seen him transfer the ground to Chelsea in return for equal shares with Bates in the club.

The £5 million that Harding paid for the north stand is a loan. However, it does not have to be repaid until 2008.

However, the £5 million that Harding has put into the transfer account is thought to be in bank guarantees only, and can be withdrawn at 30 days' notice. If he decided to call in the loan, Chelsea would have to sell players, which would do nothing for his reputation with the supporters.

It also understood that the money Harding promised for players had strings attached.

FA investigates crowd incidents that cast shadow over European Championship

Martin Thorpe on the ticket chaos and abusive fan problems at the Cup final

CS GAS, flares, stolen tickets, wrongly ejected supporters, crowd abuse: Saturday's FA Cup final was a perfect dress rehearsal for many of the problems that will face the European Championship this summer.

The FA chief executive Graham Kelly has already ordered an investigation into the incidents in which Eric Cantona was spat at and a punch was thrown at Alex Ferguson as the pair climbed the steps to Wembley's Royal Box to lift the Cup. "We are very concerned with the situation," said Kelly, "and we will be reviewing this matter urgently with Wembley."

According to the Wembley spokesman Martin Corrie, the likely Cup final solution will see the two areas either side of the steps to the Royal Box given over to neutral supporters rather than fans of the competing sides. For England internationals these are already family areas.

Liverpool fans on the side where the Cantona incident took place were near enough to have earlier abused United's substituted striker Andy Cole and thrown objects at him as he sat on the bench. Then as Cantona climbed the steps, one fan spat what appeared to be a mouthful of orange juice at the Frenchman, who reacted calmly and continued on.

The culprit was not apprehended but Supt Ray Muspratt of Liverpool police said yesterday that "if the Met Police send a video of the incident we will endeavour to identify the person and arrest him".

Altogether there were 73 arrests at the game, including two for carrying CS gas, small canisters of which are on open sale on the Continent. An Italian-style red flare was also let off at the United end.

Security checks on Saturday led to delays in supporters entering the ground, but caught about 100 tickets that

had been stolen in Liverpool. Unfortunately they had been sold as part of a package to a group of people in South Africa, who had travelled over at up to £3,000 each only to find themselves refused entry.

Another 32 Liverpool supporters were ejected before the game because it was thought they held stolen tickets. But it was later discovered that their tickets were genuine and that a stolen ticket had provided by Liverpool FC was wrong.

"We are extremely embarrassed and greatly sympathise with these people at missing the game," said Corrie. "But we could only work to the lists, and these came from Liverpool." Given the recent row over the authenticity of some 10,000 Euro '96 tickets, could this be a portent for the summer?

Alex Ferguson wants a six-year contract and Manchester United appear willing to grant it to him. "We're very happy to give him a new contract," said the chairman Martin Edwards, "I hope he stays as long as he wants to."

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BARCLAYS

Guardian Crossword No 20,651

Set by Crispa

Across

- Superseded newsmen, say (7)
- List the revised order (7)
- Given tea, grimace in disappointment (7)
- The princess's baby with a following (7)
- Paste soon formed from talk (9)
- Blue or quite proper? (5)
- The mother set about some soldiers - fancy! (5)
- The way article can be placed in between without delay (9)
- Simple church with music and comfortable seating (4-5)
- Trees may be clipped (5)
- Animals in a nature reserve look a picture of health (5)
- Chest set up as agreed (9)
- The squeeze that restricts one personally (7)

Down

- Cut tax on a large number (7)
- Calm head receiving state backing (7)
- Poles go after listening equipment with gains (5)
- The plant granted a loan isn't broke (9)
- A little instant rice-based meal - truly instant (5)
- Person advising modish worker about figure (9)
- Today's clerk, so a child must keep near (7)
- Corrupt - and stick up for the lawman! (7)
- Contribute to get at inside of engine (9)

16 A killer - one not known to accept money (9)

17 Egghead accompanied by rat possibly being caustic (7)

18 Walk lumberingly along quiet promenade (7)

20 Upright, but not well-behaved (7)

21 Failing to reach a conclusion (7)

23 Lance rendered sterile (5)

24 Round up catch for painting (2,3)

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G2 page 12

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